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EACA

Conscience of the Nation

Damir Al-Watan

Administrative Control Authority \ Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy (EACA)

Egyptian Women are Partners in Achievement and Builders of the Future



Special Issue on the Occasion of
International Women's Day
Rights. Justice. Work

Center for Research and Studies on Preventing and Combating Corruption (CRSPCC)

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Conscience of the Nation

Damir Al-Watan

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الاصدار الرقمي الالكتروني
باللغة العربية

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On this day, we mark our appreciation for the Egyptian woman, who has always been the lifeblood of this nation and a true partner in building its achievements. The Egyptian mother is not only the nurturer of her children; she is also the guardian of the nation's identity and cultural heritage. She is the beating heart that instills the values of love, tolerance, and belonging in the hearts of future generations, raising a conscious generation capable of bearing responsibility and confronting challenges. Egyptian women have carried this nation through times of prosperity and adversity alike, facing every challenge with the understanding that they are the pillar of the family, the foundation of society, and the backbone of life in our beloved country. As I have always said—and continue to affirm—the Egyptian woman has always been a cornerstone in building the enduring Egyptian civilization, a civilization that has stood tall for thousands of years in pride, splendor, sophistication, and grace.

President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi

Excerpt from remarks delivered by His Excellency
President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi
at the (Egyptian Women and Ideal Mothers Ceremony)
on 22 March 2025



In the journey of nations, there are guiding lights that shape their civilization and write their history. On the occasion of International Women’s Day, we pause with deep respect before a long and distinguished human journey in which women have played a fundamental role—as true partners in the making of civilization, guardians of noble values, and enduring sources of inspiration and hope. Celebrating women is therefore not a passing occasion; it is a renewed affirmation of a firm belief in their vital contribution to building nations and shaping the future.

Across the centuries, women have demonstrated—alongside their boundless generosity and emotional depth—remarkable strength of character and nobility of purpose in striving to build a better present and a brighter tomorrow. In our beloved homeland, Egypt, Egyptian women have written luminous chapters in the record of national service across diverse fields. They have served as ministers, judges, teachers, physicians, innovators, and decision-makers—from earlier eras to contemporary examples that continue to reinforce their standing as symbols of determination, knowledge, and responsibility.

Within the framework of implementing the (National Strategy for Sustainable Development: Egypt Vision 2030), the Egyptian state has sought to transform the concept of “women’s empowerment” from a slogan into a tangible and influential reality—an established approach grounded in thoughtful policy. This effort reflects the conviction that comprehensive development cannot be achieved without women’s full participation in all spheres of life. The progress made through supportive legislation, national initiatives, and institutional efforts represents meaningful steps along a path that will continue to advance with determination and confidence.

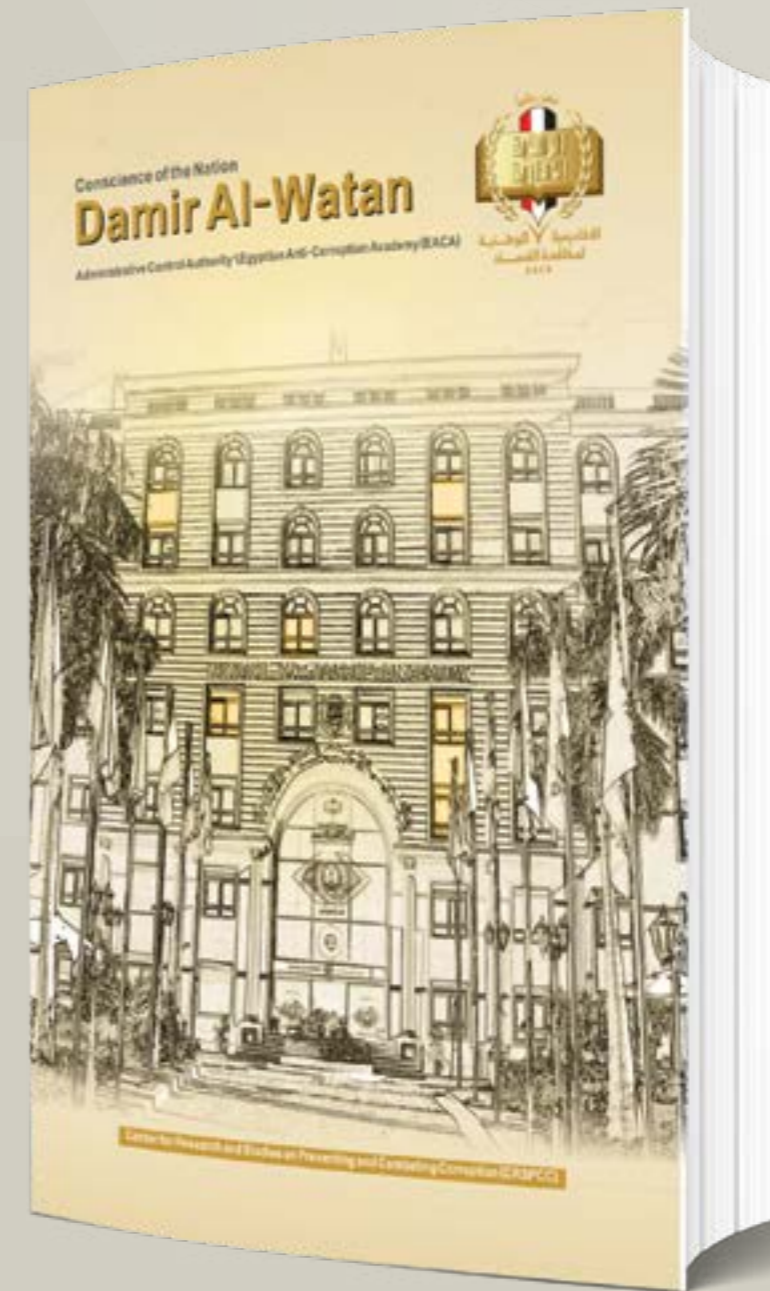
In this commemorative issue, we celebrate inspiring success stories and highlight pioneering experiences, renewing our commitment to ensuring that women remain at the heart of the national project as partners in a dynamic present and architects of a more just and prosperous future.

Minister/ Amr Adel
Chairman of the Administrative Control Authority



Previous
Issues

Damir Al-Watan



All issues of the 'Conscience of the Nation' magazine are published on the official website of the Egyptian Knowledge Bank.



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generations.**



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Egyptian Women in the Nation's Journey: Partners in Shaping History and the Future



ضمير
الوطن

First Undersecretary Dr/ Mohamed Salama

■ Editor-in-Chief

 God created Adam to be His viceroy on earth—a divine charge and an honor—entrusting him with upholding God's path through worship and bearing responsibility for the cultivation of the earth by harnessing its resources and building civilizations. For the purpose of this stewardship to endure and for humanity to continue, Adam required a companion. Thus God created Eve from Adam's rib. That rib was never a sign of diminishment, but rather a means to relieve his solitude and a source of comfort and belonging—an active partner in confronting life's challenges and building the future. From this moment emerged the earliest philosophical understanding of womanhood: a relationship founded on complementarity of purpose, balance of roles, and a shared responsibility in the construction of civilization.



Umm Kulthum



Inji Aflatoun



Hekmat Abu-Zayd



Ceza Nabarawi



Nabawiya Moussa



Dawlat Abyad



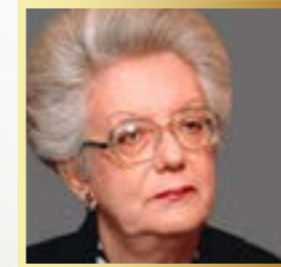
Amina El-Saeed



Samira Moussa



Suhair Al-Qalamawi



Aisha Ratib



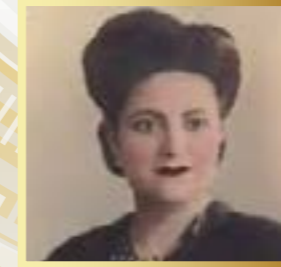
Latifa El-Nadi



Huda Shaarawi



Malak Hifni Nasif



Mofida Abdel-Rahman



Aisha Abdel Rahman



Nemat Fouad



Fawzia Abdel-Sattar



Safiya Zaghloul



Rose El-Youssef



This profound perspective resonates deeply with both the ancient and modern history of Egypt. Across the ages, women were never marginal figures or passive followers; they were consistently active participants from the dawn of history. Egypt, after all, gave birth to one of humanity's most ancient civilizations, and accordingly ancient Egyptian mythology featured a distinctive and powerful presence of women. Isis stands as an enduring symbol of loyalty, wisdom, and perseverance in her timeless story and the hardships she endured out of her devotion to Osiris, then the historical story of Queen Ahhotep I, mother of Ahmose I, illustrates the real stature of women in ancient Egypt. She was deeply revered by her people for her sacrifices for the homeland and for her support of the military struggle to expel the Hyksos. Perhaps her greatest legacy was raising a remarkable leader whom she nurtured with devotion to the nation—one who ultimately liberated the land and defended its frontiers.

“
Honoring women means honoring the entire Egyptian family. Women teach important values, build a sense of belonging and love for the country, and help raise a generation that is strong, determined, and capable of success”

The reverence accorded to her legacy echoes even today in Egyptian culture. Her name survives in traditional chants welcoming the arrival of the holy month of Ramadan, expressions that historically signified greeting her like the moon. Over time, this practice evolved into the well-known custom of celebrating the sighting of the crescent moon marking the beginning of the blessed month.

Women in ancient Egypt also held profound symbolic and spiritual significance. The figure of Ma'at embodied truth and justice; Isis represented devotion and sacrifice; Nut was the guardian of the heavens; and Hathor symbolized beauty and affection. These representations reflect the esteem and reverence afforded to women in Egypt thousands of years ago.

Egyptian women were also granted notable social and legal status across many aspects of life. They possessed rights

to buy and sell property, to inherit and bequeath wealth, and to participate in religious rituals and administrative affairs. Some even ascended the throne itself. Queen Merneith is regarded as one of the earliest queens in recorded history, dating back to the First Dynasty of ancient Egypt.

Among the most prominent examples of women's leadership stands Hatshepsut, who ruled Egypt for nearly two decades. Her reign demonstrated that leadership is not confined to one gender. She governed with wisdom and competence, strengthening the state through internal stability, expanding construction and development projects, and promoting trade networks. The monuments she left behind remain enduring testimony to an era of prosperity and achievement.

Despite the many historical periods through which the Egyptian state has passed—each shaped by distinct political, social, and economic conditions that introduced new contexts and challenges—the presence of women has remained constant. At the beginning of the twentieth century, Egypt experienced a broad social and cultural awakening that helped highlight women's contributions in numerous fields, particularly education, culture, and public life. Yet these developments did not mark the beginning of women's role; rather, they represented another chapter in a long and continuous story of participation and influence.

The modern Egyptian state has come to recognize that women's participation—what we today describe as women's empowerment—is neither a matter of luxury nor a superficial gesture meant to signal alignment with modern ideals. Rather, it stems from a deep awareness that educating women and enabling their contributions strengthens the Egyptian family and, by extension, society as a whole. When women participate, the scope of vision broadens; when they work, the economy grows stronger and decision-making becomes more complete.

This understanding opened the way for women to enter diverse fields, including education and scientific research. Women have also taken leadership roles in influential civil society organizations and worked within major press institutions—indeed, establishing some of them. A number of pioneering female journalists have assumed prominent positions in leading media organizations. At the same time, distinguished female writers and journalists have played a vital role in renewing cultural discourse, advocating for

issues related to women, the family, and society at large. Their contributions have enriched the national dialogue, expanded the space for debate and diverse viewpoints, and strengthened a culture of pluralism and respect for difference.

Women have likewise made remarkable contributions in medicine and the sciences across a wide spectrum—from healthcare to nuclear science, and from computing to information technology. These achievements reflect the powerful combination of knowledge and purpose that characterizes women's work. Women often bring together professional accomplishment with care and compassion, a quality particularly evident in their leadership of healthcare campaigns and social awareness initiatives. Such efforts have not only enhanced professional performance but also infused it with a strong human dimension, producing meaningful and measurable outcomes.

The contributions of Egyptian women are not confined to particular sectors. Beyond agriculture and industry, their roles extend to economics, management, and entrepreneurship. Experience has shown that women's participation in the labor market strengthens social stability and positively influences economic growth. Through the establishment and management of small and microenterprises—especially in productive sectors—women contribute not only to their families' incomes but also to national output and the broader development process. In this sense, empowering women represents a strategic choice to harness half of society's human potential.

At the regional level—across the Arab and African worlds—women have also played luminous roles. Many have contributed significantly to the history of national liberation movements, standing at the forefront of struggles against colonialism and its legacies. Their impact has also been felt in education, healthcare, and public life, where they have entered various fields with dedication and integrity. This regional dimension reflects a shared vision and common aspirations regarding the role of women, underscoring that their cause is not merely a local concern but part of a broader project aimed at achieving progress founded on justice, dignity, and equality.

Yet celebrating women should not be limited to highlighting the bright achievements of their contributions. It must also lead to a deeper awareness of the cultural, social, and economic challenges that still hinder the full realization of women's potential—both in our country and across the region. Achieving genuine justice requires continued efforts to remove barriers that limit women's participation. This calls for fair educational and employment policies, equitable legislation, and effective empowerment programs, supported by a responsible media vision that promotes values of respect and equality.

The publication of this commemorative issue honoring women forms part of a broader national commitment by Egypt to recognize women's rightful place in society. It is not simply a symbolic gesture or a momentary celebration. Rather, it is a message of

appreciation and recognition that reaffirms the importance of women's contributions and underscores the priority of their issues within the national agenda. Through this issue, we also aim to provide a platform that highlights women's history, present achievements, and enduring legacy across the ages, while exploring future horizons within a wide space for reflection and dialogue. In doing so, we renew our commitment to the principles of justice, respect, and appreciation.

Honoring women is, in essence, also a tribute to the Egyptian family as a whole. Women have long been regarded as the first school of authentic Egyptian values and the source from which feelings of loyalty, belonging, and love for the homeland are nurtured. They are the ones who instill ethical principles and cultivate in younger generations the perseverance and determination necessary for achievement. Women also stand as essential partners in confronting the challenges faced by families. For while states are guided by policies and programs, it is values and moral foundations that ultimately safeguard and sustain those achievements.

Looking ahead, we view the future with optimism and confidence, working to pave the way for the next generation of girls to grow with ambition and determination in a society where opportunities are fairly distributed and participation is broadened within an open environment enriched by diverse talents of creativity and innovation. In today's rapidly evolving technological world, every creative mind among young men and women—and every capable hand in the workforce—has become a necessity rather than a choice. This is especially true amid intense global competition and the emergence of conflicts that heavily affect export capacities, disrupt international shipping routes, and hinder the regular functioning of supply chains.

In such circumstances, women's contributions become even more vital in shaping a more balanced future by opening new horizons for sustainable development.

In conclusion, we affirm that Egyptian civilization—one of the oldest and most influential in human history, which once illuminated the path for the world—along with the progress Egyptians have achieved throughout the ages, has always been built upon the collective efforts of its sons and daughters and their shared belief in the power of knowledge and hard work. Through this partnership, genuine collaboration across all fields becomes possible, allowing the nation's future to advance through the joint efforts of men and women, side by side, in a journey of nation-building defined by determination and dedication. With firm conviction, we believe that the Egyptian people—whether men or women—are the nation's most valuable and enduring resource.

Nahdat Misr (Egypt's Renaissance) statue depicts the homeland as a woman, leaning on a long and glorious history. Sculptor: Mahmoud Mokhtar, 1921

(*) Researchers note that the name of Queen Iahhotep means “Moon of the Time.” Ancient Egyptians used to chant the song “Wahawi Ya Wahawi Iyyaha” to welcome the queen. Later, its use changed among Egyptians, and it became associated with welcoming the sighting of the crescent moon marking the beginning of Ramadan.



Egyptian women exercise their constitutional rights by casting their votes in parliamentary elections.

The Golden Era of Women.. a decade in history whose pages are still being written



ضمير
الوطن

Dr. Maya Morsy

■ Minister of Social Solidarity



It is a great pleasure and honor to be a guest of Dameer Al-Watan in this special issue celebrating International Women's Day. From this space, words flow naturally from my pen to express my appreciation for every woman. They move across the page with pride, tracing a path through memories, choices, and achievements, to share with you—from the other shore—the story of what I have always called the Golden Decade of the Egyptian woman.



In Egypt's New Republic, under the leadership of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Egyptian women have regained their vitality and prominence, supported by a strong political will that upholds equality, activates their constitutional rights, and ensures fair and just legislation

So, what was the place of women a decade ago? In Egyptian history and its narratives, the Egyptian woman has left an indelible mark. History bears witness that Egyptian civilization preceded those of the ancient East in granting women high office. She was a priestess of the greatest deities, a queen who ruled alongside her king, a regent to the throne, or a sovereign who governed alone. Temple walls also record her role as a mother and wife, shaping the course of events.

Contrary to some claims, God Almighty granted women their role and importance in all spheres of life. The revealed scriptures honored women, affirming their strength and empowerment. God addressed women directly in His Holy Book and highlighted their roles alongside messengers and prophets. Adam was called to enter Paradise with his wife. The mother of Moses was inspired to nurse her child and place him in the river. Mary, daughter of Imran, was granted a heavenly gift and an earthly miracle. The story of Alsayeda Hagar between Safa and Marwa stands as the highest form of divine honor for women. Her striving was not made a passing incident, but an eternal rite, without which neither Hajj nor Umrah is complete. Millions follow the footsteps of a lone, patient woman, and Zamzam was made to spring beneath her son's

feet, so her story would remain a source of physical and spiritual sustenance until the end of time.

In the modern era, women forged their own strength and capability. Egyptian women stood shoulder to shoulder with men in the 1919 Revolution. They played a central role in advancing culture, the arts, science, and literature over decades. Then came 2012, when a misguided group, cloaked in religion, sought to erase Egyptian women and distort the nation's identity. In 2013, women across Egypt rose to defend their country, ending that dark chapter through the courage of Egypt's men and women and its valiant armed forces. Thus began the golden decade of the Egyptian woman.

Today, in Egypt's New Republic, under the leadership of His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the Egyptian woman has regained her elegance and radiance. A clear political will laid firm foundations and, as I often say, placed the "seal of equality." Women's constitutional rights were activated and safeguarded by fair legislation. The 2014 Constitution moved beyond merely prohibiting discrimination to committing the state to empowerment, making women's rights an integral part of Egypt's legal and institutional framework.

Women have reached all positions without discrimination. Their leadership capacities have been strengthened, along with their participation in the labor market. Partnerships with the private sector have expanded. Mechanisms to protect women from violence have been introduced. Women have been integrated into all policies and programs. All of this confirms, beyond any doubt, that women's empowerment is an inseparable pillar of the Egyptian state's conviction in the New Republic.

Women leaders today have become a central force in shaping the development landscape. Their role is no longer symbolic. It is real leadership over strategic and vital portfolios. With strong political support, Egyptian women have entered fields once closed to them. From the judiciary to key ministerial posts, they have shown exceptional skill in crisis management and national planning.

What defines this "golden era" is a shift from demanding rights to exercising authority. Women leaders now help draft laws that sustain empowerment. They also serve as role models. They reshape how younger generations understand women's capacity to lead with intelligence, firmness, and clear vision.

We are not speaking only of women who work and succeed. We are speaking of women who lead systems. They lead in health, education, energy, communications, and finance. In Egypt and across the



Egyptian women MPs preside over the opening session of Parliament – January 2026

Arab world, women have proven they are not just users of technology. They are developers, innovators, and solution makers. Their work supports a more inclusive digital economy.

This decade has also provided Egyptian women with the broadest social protection umbrella in modern Egyptian history. It has reached women in villages and rural areas across the country. At the Ministry of Social Solidarity, social protection is viewed as a human right. When we provide financial support, train a woman in a small village, or build her knowledge and digital skills, we do more than offer tools. We offer dignity, opportunity, and independence.

Today, the Takaful and Karama program reaches the homes of more than 4.7 million beneficiary families. Women represent over 75% of its beneficiaries. Among them are hundreds of thousands who have moved from receiving support to running small digital businesses. The program marks a qualitative shift in social protection. It is no longer temporary cash aid. It is a strategic tool for the economic and social empowerment of Egyptian women.

By directing support to mothers as the core of the family, the program has given women financial autonomy and decision-making power at home. This has strengthened their leadership in managing household resources. The program also requires children to remain in school and attend regular health checkups. In doing so, it places women at the center of securing an entire generation's future. It

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In the modern era, women have forged strength and capability for themselves. Egyptian women stood side by side with men during the 1919 Revolution, and over the decades, they have played a vital role in developing and advancing culture, the arts, science, and literature”

transforms them from aid recipients into partners in sustainable development. This approach has helped reduce the feminization of poverty and raised women's awareness of their health and legal rights in the most underserved areas.

Funding has also been provided to more than one million women to establish small businesses, with total investments reaching four billion pounds. In addition, over 730 million pounds supported Mastoura projects for more than 30,000 women.

We believe that protecting women means protecting the nation as a whole.

In this context, the Egyptian government launched the Strategic Financial Framework for Economic Empowerment. The program supports economic empowerment and financial inclusion for the most vulnerable groups. It combines microfinance, insurance, and technical training. It opens the door for women to become producers in the digital economy, not just consumers. We do not offer assistance. We offer the keys to the future.

“
Women have reached all positions without discrimination. Their leadership capabilities have been strengthened, along with their participation in the labor market. Partnerships with the private sector have also been enhanced, and new mechanisms have been introduced to protect women from violence”

In Egypt, women are not just a case [or issue] to be managed; they are a driver of development.

From Egypt, the heart of history and a land that introduced civilization, knowledge, and art to the world, we affirm that empowering women is not an end goal. It is a nation-building process. Every woman who learns, works, and innovates

opens a new door to the future. Every girl given a chance today becomes an inspiring leader



More than 4.7 million families have benefited from the Takaful and Karama program



"Decent Life" Initiative promotes a culture of saving to support women's economic independence

tomorrow. We, as Egyptians, stand side by side—not to keep up with the future, but to lead the future." We lead because we believe in people. We believe in women as the heart, mind, and living conscience of this nation. We lead because we understand that real investment is not in stone, but in human potential. Every step a woman takes forward moves the entire country ahead. We lead because we chose social justice as a lived reality, not a slogan, and as public policy, not a passing exception.

Today, as we mark International Women's Day, we do not celebrate achievements that belong to the past. We celebrate an ongoing journey, a sustained

will, and a national dream that does not retreat. We celebrate every patient mother, every dedicated worker, every brave leader, and every girl who knows she deserves her place under this nation's sun.

“
Through the Takaful and Karama program, more than 4.7 million families have benefited, with women making up over 75% of the beneficiaries. Among them are hundreds of thousands of women who have transitioned from beneficiaries to owners of small, digitally enabled businesses”

Egyptian women have never stood on the margins of history, and they will never stand on the margins of the future. They are builders of civilization, guardians of identity, partners in decision-making, and pillars of development. With every fair policy, every just law, and every real opportunity offered, women write a new chapter in modern Egypt's story.

From here, we renew our commitment: to justice, to equality, to genuine empowerment, and to ensuring that opportunity reaches every woman, in cities and villages, in the Valley and Upper Egypt, today and tomorrow. This is Egypt.

These are its women. And this is its golden decade, a chapter still being written.



Samira Moussa

Egypt's first Woman Nuclear scientist and the first female teaching assistant at the Faculty of Science, King Fuad I University (now Cairo University)

3 March 1917 – 15 August 1952

She was widely known as the "Miss Curie of the East" for her excellence in nuclear physics and her scientific achievements. She worked as a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Science, King Fuad I University (now Cairo University), and conducted advanced research at the University of California, where she sought to harness atomic energy for peaceful applications in medicine, agriculture, and industry. Her name became associated with advocating for the right of nations to benefit from nuclear science without monopoly, as well as with her strong national commitment—factors that made her early death a subject of speculation and deep appreciation of her scientific value.

I wish cancer treatment could become as simple as aspirin

Samira M oussa



Latifa El-Nadi

The first Egyptian, Arab, and African woman to obtain a pilot's license (September 27, 1933)

29 October 1907 – 29 August 2002

She became an early symbol of women entering technical and nontraditional professions. She joined the Egyptian Aviation Club and earned her pilot's license in 1933, becoming the first Egyptian woman to fly solo at a time when women's presence in public life was still limited. Her achievement was widely celebrated in both Egyptian and international media, contributing to changing stereotypes about women's abilities and potential.

Freedom is the true reason that drove me to fly

Latifa El-N adi



Between Inevitability and Emerging Risks:

Digital Transformation as a Mechanism for Preventing and Combating Corruption



ضمير
الوطن

Prof. Salima Mesrati

■ President of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Combating Corruption – Algeria

Digital transformation in public administration has become one of the most prominent strategic choices adopted by modern states in their efforts to improve administrative performance, simplify procedures, optimize the use of financial and human resources, and enhance transparency and the quality of public services. It is no longer merely a matter of technological modernization; rather, it represents a comprehensive reform process closely linked to the principles of good governance, administrative democracy, and the fight against corruption.

Digital administration is widely regarded as an effective tool for curbing both administrative and financial corruption. It does so primarily by reducing direct interaction between public officials and citizens, standardizing procedures, and limiting discretionary authority that is not clearly regulated. In addition, digital systems create a permanent and traceable record that facilitates monitoring and oversight. Because of this growing role, many countries and international organizations have integrated digital transformation into the core of their public policies and strategies aimed at strengthening integrity

On the occasion of International Women's Day, I am pleased to extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes to all women in Algeria and across the Arab region, wishing you continued health, well-being, and further success, excellence, and achievement in both your professional and personal journeys. Algerian women have always been—and continue to be—a model of dedication and perseverance. They maintain a strong presence across all areas of life, contributing with competence and determination to serving society and building the nation. On this occasion, I renew my deep appreciation for the efforts and sacrifices made by Algerian and Arab women, carried out with integrity and sincerity. I wish you continued brilliance and success in your journey of creativity and work. At the kind invitation of Dameer Al-Watan magazine, I am pleased to share with you this article on the role of digital transformation in combating corruption.

and transparency in the management of public affairs.

Within this framework, the United Nations Convention against Corruption explicitly endorses this direction by encouraging the use of information and communication technologies to enhance transparency, accountability, and the prevention of corruption in both the public and private sectors. The Convention has thus served as a key international reference point, prompting member states to reconsider traditional administrative models and gradually transition toward digital governance.

In line with these international commitments, Algeria launched its National Strategy for Transparency, Prevention, and the Fight against Corruption for the period 2023–2027 in July 2023. The initiative is guided by a clear vision: "Toward an anti-corruption Algeria founded on the principles of transparency, integrity, and accountability." The strategy forms part of a broader reform agenda aimed at modernizing public administration, improving the quality of public services, and strengthening the foundations of good governance.

The strategy is notable for its comprehensive scope. It outlines five overarching goals, seventeen strategic objectives, and sixty implementation measures, with digital transformation identified as one of its central pillars. Accordingly, a substantial portion of these measures is dedicated to the digitization of administrative services and procedures. The objective is to ease administrative burdens, streamline procedural pathways, shorten processing times for files and applications, enhance transparency, and reduce opportunities for corruption—consistent with the government's broader policy of transitioning toward e-government.

However, comparative experiences indicate that the adoption of digital administration, despite its many advantages, is not without significant risks—particularly where adequate technical, legal, and human safeguards are lacking. In some cases, certain practices have produced deviations that fall squarely within the realm of administrative and financial corruption. This creates a troubling paradox: the very instrument designed to combat corruption can, if misused, become a means of committing it in ways that are more complex and far less visible.

Manipulation of digital data—whether through inflation or suppression—has emerged as one of the most prominent forms of digital corruption. Information systems, digital platforms, and algorithms may be exploited to steer decisions or tilt competition in favor of particular individuals or institutions in exchange for illicit benefits. Such practices are especially visible in sensitive areas such as public-sector recruitment examinations, the awarding of public contracts, and the granting of licenses and accreditations—thereby undermining the principles of equality, fair opportunity, and open competition.

Serious risks have also arisen regarding personal data, which has increasingly become vulnerable to leaks or unlawful exploitation for the benefit of certain economic actors. These

practices not only infringe upon individual rights but also erode public trust in digital administration as a whole. In this context, new concepts have begun to appear in the literature on anti-corruption, including digital bribery, whereby administrative procedures are facilitated or official decisions issued in exchange for electronic financial transfers, often through digital wallets or other modern payment mechanisms.

Money laundering has likewise evolved in response to digital transformation. What is now referred to as digital money laundering involves integrating the proceeds of corruption into the digital financial system before converting them into cryptocurrencies or other digital financial instruments, making detection and legal prosecution significantly more difficult.

Digital corruption is, in many respects, more dangerous than traditional forms of corruption. Its speed and transnational nature allow it to be carried out in a very short time and across multiple jurisdictions, extending its impact from national economies to the global economic system. It is

also characterized by a high degree of secrecy and concealment, making detection difficult without specialized institutions and highly skilled expertise in fields such as information technology, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. The legal complexity of such offenses further compounds the challenge, given their cross-border character.

Numerous studies and international forums have emphasized that the success of digital transformation in combating corruption ultimately depends on strengthening digital security and building trust in digital platforms. Accordingly, there have been growing calls to invest in robust digital infrastructure, adopt cloud computing and the Internet of Things, and develop strong cybersecurity systems. These measures should be complemented by electronic auditing mechanisms for digital transactions and the use of blockchain technologies in public procurement and contracting processes, given their capacity to enhance transparency and prevent tampering.

Ensuring that digital administration does not reproduce the very corruption it seeks to eliminate requires three essential and interdependent pillars: a strong technological infrastructure capable of delivering stable and reliable digital services; a qualified human element able to manage digital systems responsibly and effectively; and a modern legal framework that keeps pace with the transition from paper-based administration to digital governance while regulating the legitimate use of emerging technologies.

Digital transformation, therefore, while an indispensable strategic choice for preventing and combating corruption, can achieve its intended goals only if it is integrated within a comprehensive and forward-looking vision—one that treats digitalization as a genuine driver of integrity, transparency, and good governance, rather than merely a technical instrument that could be misused to reproduce corruption in more complex and less visible forms.

In conclusion, tribute is extended to Arab women—and to women everywhere across the globe—on the occasion of International Women's Day, in recognition of their vital partnership in building a brighter and more prosperous future.



The Algerian anti-corruption strategy is distinguished by its comprehensive nature. It includes five main goals, seventeen strategic objectives, and six operational programs, with digital transformation forming one of its 23 key pillars.



Digital corruption is more dangerous than traditional corruption due to its complexity and cross-border nature. It can be carried out in a very short time across multiple regions and countries, allowing its impact to extend from the national economy to the global economy. It is also characterized by a high degree of secrecy and concealment.

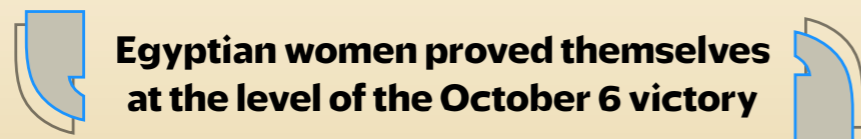


Aisha Ratib

Egypt's first Woman ambassador and first Minister of Social Affairs and Insurance

22 February 1928 – 4 May 2013

A pioneer in law and diplomacy in Egypt, she was the first woman appointed as an Egyptian ambassador abroad. She worked as a professor of public law and contributed to the development of legal thought through her research in constitutional law, rights, and public freedoms before joining the diplomatic corps. She served as Egypt's ambassador to Denmark and Germany, paving the way for Egyptian women's participation in diplomacy and international representation.



Aisha Ratib



Hekmat Abu-Zayd

The first Woman minister in Egypt's history


1922 – 30 July 2011

Described by Gamal Abdel Nasser as "the compassionate heart of the revolution," she was appointed Minister of Social Affairs in 1962, opening the door for women's presence in top government decision-making roles. She became known as the "Minister of the Poor" for her extensive social programs, particularly after the 1967 defeat, when she oversaw initiatives to support the families of soldiers, displaced persons, and those affected. She also contributed to key legislations regulating civil society organizations and expanding the social safety net, reinforcing the image of women as capable leaders of major state portfolios.



The swearing-in ceremony of newly appointed women judges at the High Court – September 2022

The Egyptian Woman: The Nation's Conscience and the Maker of Balance

 On International Women's Day, we do more than celebrate women as symbols of empowerment. We honor their deep human role in building societies and preserving balance. Egyptian women have long shaped the nation's conscience. They do so not only through public achievement, but through their daily ability to carry responsibility, create stability, and nurture hope within families and communities alike.



ضمير
الوطن

Dr. Yasmine Fouad

■ Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification

Throughout history, women in Egypt have carried intertwined roles. They are mothers, active members of society, and partners in development. From this diversity came lasting traits in the Egyptian character: patience, adaptability, responsibility, and faith in work as a path to continuity. These were never slogans. They were lived values, practiced by women who knew how to balance life's demands without losing their human core.

At the regional and African levels, Egypt's experience in empowering women has been pioneering. Recent years have seen real expansion in women's presence in decision-making, academia, diplomacy, development, science, and the judiciary. This presence was not symbolic. It reflected competence and the ability to manage complex issues. As a result, Egyptian women emerged as respected leadership models across the Arab and African worlds.

Egyptian women are distinguished by their ability to unite knowledge with experience, and reason with empathy. Within the family, they play a central role in education and values. In the workplace, they prove their capacity for achievement, teamwork, and resilience under pressure. This positive duality is not a burden. It is a source of strength that offers a broader perspective on social, economic, and environmental challenges.

From personal experience, I learned early that balancing professional and family life is not easy. Yet it is possible through determination, support, trust, and faith. Motherhood was never an obstacle to public service. It helped reorder priorities. It reminded me that every decision in a position of responsibility must consider people and future generations. Being a mother teaches listening, patience, and long-term planning—core values of wise leadership.

From my mother, Nahed El-Manshawy, I learned that true success is not measured by titles or achievements alone. It lies in continuity without losing one's values or identity. It also lies in maintaining balance between professional ambition and family responsibility. Family support and understanding of public service were essential at every step. This confirms that women's empowerment cannot be complete without a supportive environment.

Through my work in the environmental field, nationally and internationally, I have seen how women—especially in communities affected by climate and economic challenges—carry the heaviest burdens. Yet they also show remarkable ability to

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The experience of empowering Egyptian women has been pioneering. In recent years, there has been a genuine expansion in women's presence in decision-making positions, as well as in academic, diplomatic, developmental, scientific, and judicial fields. This presence has not been merely symbolic; rather, it has been marked by competence and a strong ability to manage complex issues



Women's contribution to agricultural and productive activities – Egypt

innovate, protect resources, and sustain livelihoods. Empowering women here is not only a matter of fairness. It strengthens the resilience of society as a whole.

Today, as Egypt takes serious steps to support women's participation across sectors, my conviction grows stronger. Investing in women is an investment

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I realized early on that balancing professional and family life is not an easy equation, but it is possible with determination, support, confidence, and faith in God. Motherhood has never been an obstacle to public service; rather, it has been a constant source of reordering priorities and a reminder that every decision made in positions of responsibility must take people and future generations into account

in social stability and the future. Every woman given trust and opportunity opens doors for others and helps build positive models for coming generations.

Looking ahead, the real ambition is to deepen a culture that sees women as full partners in development. A culture that allows them to balance their roles without conflict or guilt. We must give girls space to dream, to try, and to choose. Balance is not a single formula. It is a personal journey for every woman, deserving of respect and support.

On International Women's Day, I renew my belief that Egyptian women will remain the living conscience of the nation. They unite care

within the family with leadership in society. They help shape a future that is more just, balanced, and sustainable for all.





Safiya Zaghloul

Known as the “Mother of the Egyptians”
for her role in the 1919 Revolution

16 June 1878 – 12 January 1946

A prominent national figure and the wife of Saad Zaghloul, she earned the title “Mother of the Egyptians.” She led the national movement from her home after her husband’s exile, turning it into a hub for politicians and nationalists and a center for coordinating popular demonstrations during the 1919 Revolution. Her presence and influence helped establish the image of women as active partners in the national struggle, bearing the cost of defending the country’s independence and dignity.

 **Egyptian women are capable
of being partners in their
nation’s struggle** 

Safiya Zaghloul





Huda Shaarawi

Founder of the Egyptian Feminist Union and
leader of the women’s liberation movement

23 June 1879 – 12 December 1947

A pioneer of the Egyptian feminist movement and a prominent national leader against British occupation. She led the first major women’s demonstration in 1919 and established the Women’s Central Committee of Wafd Party. In 1923, she founded the Egyptian Feminist Union, followed later by the Arab Feminist Union. Her name is closely associated with a new era of women’s participation in public life, and her writings and memoirs remain key references in Arab feminist thought.

 **Women’s education is the
foundation of building a
modern society** 

Huda Shaarawi

Empowering Women and Advancing Justice: A Pathway to Integrity and Sustainable Development



ضمير
الوطن

Christina Albertin

Regional Representative, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for the Middle East and North Africa



Each year on March 8, the world comes together to mark International Women's Day—a moment to celebrate women's achievements while reflecting on the persistent challenges they continue to face. International Women's Day 2025 comes at a time when justice systems are under increasing strain, with women bearing a disproportionate share of the burden. This makes this year's theme, "Rights. Justice. Action.", more urgent than ever. It reflects the United Nations' longstanding commitment to gender equality and justice, as well as the central role that women's empowerment and gender equality play in the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

This day serves as a reminder that justice is not an abstract concept—it must respond to the lived realities of women and girls. A woman seeking help, a survivor of human trafficking, or a victim of gender-based violence all deserve protection, support, and fair treatment. When these essential elements are absent, the consequences can be severe.

Through its mandates and its Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy, UNODC works to build just, inclusive, and resilient societies. This strategy ensures that gender equality is integrated across all areas of work—from crime prevention and drug control to counterterrorism, anti-corruption efforts, and criminal justice—so that everyone, women and men alike, can access equal opportunities, dignity, and justice.

At the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, we believe that advancing justice and equality for women and girls begins with embedding a gender-responsive perspective at every level of action. Whether through strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice officials, improving conditions for women in closed settings and addressing their specific needs, expanding services for women and girl survivors of violence and crime, conducting research, or addressing emerging cyber threats—each effort contributes to developing laws, policies, and practices that reflect women's experiences, needs, and rights, and that ensure their safe, fair, effective, and equal access to justice.

This vision also guides our ongoing support to Member States. We advocate for the integration of

gender equality into national policies, legislation, and programs, in line with international frameworks such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Anti-corruption is a central pillar of this work. Corruption often impacts women more severely—limiting their access to essential services, deepening inequality, and increasing their vulnerability to exploitation and coercion. Strengthening governance and accountability through a gender-responsive lens is therefore critical. This includes understanding how corruption reinforces gender inequality, highlighting the vital role of women—particularly in leadership positions—and generating evidence-based insights into how women contribute to combating corruption at all levels of governance.

In the Middle East and North Africa, UNODC works closely with national partners to mainstream gender perspectives across anti-corruption policies, promote women's participation in oversight bodies, support women's leadership in public administration, raise awareness around integrity, and improve access to justice through gender-sensitive criminal justice systems and safe reporting mechanisms.

At the forefront of these efforts is the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE) initiative, implemented in partnership with Egypt's Administrative Control Authority. More than 300 students from Egyptian universities have participated in this initiative, with women accounting for over 50 percent of participants. The program has reached universities in

Cairo, Giza, Helwan, Alexandria, Mansoura, Beni Suef, and Assiut. It equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to make ethical decisions, confront corruption in professional environments, and promote a culture of integrity and accountability among future leaders.

Incorporating women's voices, leadership, and experiences makes justice systems more equitable, secure, and responsive to real needs. Every barrier removed, every survivor supported, and every woman empowered through education and awareness brings us closer to societies where corruption, violence, and discrimination no longer limit human potential. Together with our partners, we celebrate progress while recognizing that much work remains. Each step forward reaffirms that empowering women strengthens justice, improves governance, and enables societies to thrive—ensuring that women can claim their rights, access justice, and turn gender equality from aspiration into meaningful, lasting action.



We believe that advancing justice and equality for women and girls begins with embedding a gender-responsive perspective at every level of action.



UNODC works closely with national partners to mainstream gender perspectives across anti-corruption policies, promote women's participation in oversight bodies, support women's leadership in public administration, and raise awareness around integrity.





Nabawiya Moussa

A pioneer of girls' education in Egypt and the first Egyptian woman school principal

17 December 1886 – 30 April 1951

A leading figure in girls' education in Egypt and among the first female leaders to link education with national progress. She worked as a teacher and later as a principal of girls' schools in Alexandria, Fayoum, and Cairo. She contributed to establishing new schools and developing curricula tailored for girls, driven by her belief that educating women is essential for societal advancement. She also participated in the national movement in 1919, wrote for major newspapers, and published her book *Women and Work* in 1920, advocating for employment opportunities for educated women.



A nation that denies education to its daughters condemns itself to backwardness



Nabawiya Moussa



Ceza Nabarawi

A leading figure in the Egyptian feminist movement and editor-in-chief of *L'Egyptienne* (The Egyptian Woman)

24 May 1897 – 24 February 1985

She was one of the central figures of the movement and a close associate of Huda Shaarawi in the struggle for women's education and participation in public life. She helped lead women's demonstrations during the 1919 Revolution, contributed to the founding of the Egyptian Feminist Union, and played a key role in establishing the Women's International Democratic Federation in December 1945—just months after the end of World War II—with the aim of mobilizing women's organizations worldwide to end wars and promote peace.

She became a symbol of social and cultural transformation and continued her advocacy for women's political and social rights, ultimately becoming one of the pillars of the feminist movement in the first half of the twentieth century.



المجلس القومي للمرأة
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR WOMEN



A seminar titled "Together with Awareness, We Protect Her" was held to promote women's awareness and empowerment, in the presence of the spouse of the President of the Republic – 2025

The Egyptian Woman: The Conscience of the Nation and the Shaper of Egyptian Identity

Countries around the world observe International Women's Day on March 8 each year, marking not merely a celebration, but a moment for critical reflection, informed assessment, and forward-looking engagement with the status and future of women in societies worldwide. In Egypt, this day cannot be addressed in isolation from the profound history of the Egyptian woman. At every stage of Egyptian history, the Egyptian woman has been present as the living conscience of the nation, the guardian of values, and an authentic partner in building the state and shaping the Egyptian identity—an identity that, throughout the ages, has been characterized by moderation, resilience, and the ability to remain cohesive during times of crisis and major transformations.



أيماء
أمارة

Judge/ Amal Ammar

■ President of the National Council for Women



The National Council for Women organizes a training session for 35 facilitators from Al-Asmarat district on the training manual for the "Noor" program.

of struggle and participation. In recent years, this trajectory has been reinforced by a conscious political will that recognizes that comprehensive development cannot be achieved without the effective and genuine participation of women. Over the past decade, the Egyptian state has witnessed an unprecedented leap in women's empowerment at the political, economic, social, and cultural levels, making the Egyptian experience a leading model in both the Arab and African contexts.

This orientation has been reflected in the increased representation of women in the House of Representatives and the Senate, the growing number of women assuming leadership and executive positions, and their strong entry into the judiciary, diplomatic corps, and security institutions—demonstrating the state's confidence in women's capabilities and competence. Women have also experienced notable expansion in economic empowerment opportunities through support for small and medium-sized enterprises, financial inclusion programs, and entrepreneurship. This

“ Egyptian women are distinguished by unique academic and professional qualities that have made them effective contributors in both the workplace and society. They are highly committed to continuous learning, skilled at time management and multitasking, and more inclined toward teamwork and building strong human relationships within institutions. ”

has strengthened their economic independence, contributed to improving the living standards of Egyptian families, and supported the national economy.

Egyptian women possess distinctive academic and professional attributes that have made them effective contributors in the workplace and society. They are the most committed to continuous learning, the most capable of managing time and multiple roles, and the

The presence of women has never been incidental or marginal; rather, it has been a deeply rooted role that has contributed to shaping the collective consciousness of Egyptian society and to entrenching the moral and social value system that has preserved the state's balance and continuity over time.

At its core, the Egyptian identity has been closely linked to the role of women within and beyond the family, as the primary nurturers of values, the main drivers of social cohesion, and the pillar that has safeguarded societal stability during the most delicate periods of history. Through their multiple roles, Egyptian women have helped cultivate a set of authentic qualities, such as national belonging, respect for the value of work, belief in knowledge, patience and endurance, and solidarity in the face of challenges—traits that have distinguished Egyptians within their regional and international surroundings.

The Egyptian mother has been, and continues to be, the first school that shapes awareness and instills a sense of belonging; the teacher who transmits knowledge intertwined with values; the physician who carries a noble humanitarian mission; the working woman who contributes to production; and the leader who has proven her competence and merit in decision-making positions. Through all these roles, women have become an active force in shaping the national character and preserving its balance.

The leadership of Egyptian women in the path of empowerment is not a recent development; rather, it is the result of a long historical accumulation



most inclined toward teamwork and building human relationships within institutions. These attributes have been reflected in the quality of their professional performance and have contributed to creating more balanced, stable, and productive work environments.

Within the family, women have played a pivotal role in achieving social stability, instilling values of dialogue and tolerance, respect for the law, and strengthening national belonging among younger generations. As a result, their impact extends beyond the individual sphere to become a far-reaching influence on the structure of society as a whole, and a fundamental component in preserving social peace.

Egypt abounds with honorable female role models across various fields—from scientists and writers to physicians and teachers, businesswomen, and leaders in public life—alongside rural women who bear the burden of development in their local communities and contribute to food security and social stability. Nor can the simple, everyday models be overlooked, such as the struggling mother, the devoted teacher, and the diligent employee—models whose greatness and impact are no less significant than those of public figures.

Through my work in public service, I have witnessed success stories of women who were able to transform

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The leadership of Egyptian women in the path of empowerment was not born overnight; rather, it is the result of a long history of struggle and participation. In recent years, this progress has been further strengthened by a conscious political will that recognizes that achieving comprehensive development is not possible without the active and genuine participation of women.

challenges into opportunities and prove themselves in environments that were not always conducive to equal opportunity. This affirms that investing in women is a guaranteed-return investment—not only at the individual level, but at the level of society and the state.

Through my professional experience, I have come to realize that women's empowerment is not achieved through slogans, but through clear policies, fair legislation, sustainable programs, and institutions capable of translating vision into tangible reality. Since its establishment in 2000, the National Council for Women has served as the national mechanism concerned with placing women's issues at the forefront of the national agenda, defending their rights, and promoting their participation in all spheres of life.

In recent years, the Council's work has witnessed a qualitative development, whether in terms of the expanded scope of interventions, their integration with state plans, or reliance on data and indicators. This has contributed to achieving tangible results on the ground, particularly for the most vulnerable groups of women, and has enhanced Egypt's standing in international reports and indicators concerned with the status of women.

The National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030 represents a milestone in the course of the modern Egyptian state, as the first comprehensive national strategy launched through direct political will by His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in 2017. It serves as a governing and binding framework for all state institutions in the field of women's empowerment, as one of the pillars of building the New Republic.

The launch of the strategy reaffirmed the firm conviction of the political leadership that women's empowerment is neither a sectoral issue nor a limited social demand. Rather, it is a matter of national security and sustainable development. Investing in women's capacities is therefore a direct investment in the stability and progress of the state. His Excellency the President was keen to translate constitutional provisions supporting women's rights into executive policies and measurable, evaluable programs. This



The National Council for Women organizes a training course in entrepreneurship



Pillars of the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Women 2030

approach endowed the strategy with its strength and effectiveness.

The strategy is based on four main pillars: political empowerment, economic empowerment, social empowerment, and protection. Together, these pillars ensure a comprehensive and balanced approach to women's issues. They guarantee women's effective participation in decision-making positions and secure their enjoyment of all rights without discrimination. This integrated framework has contributed to unifying state efforts and strengthening partnerships with civil society, the private sector, and development partners. It has also led to tangible progress in women's empowerment indicators, progress that has received wide regional and international recognition.

It is not possible to speak of genuine and sustainable empowerment of Egyptian women without acknowledging the unprecedented support provided by the political leadership. Foremost among them is His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, who has established a clear approach grounded in fairness and equal opportunity. This approach affirms the value of the Egyptian woman as an essential partner in building the state.

In this context, the significant social and humanitarian role undertaken by Mrs. Entisar El-Sisi, the President's spouse, stands out through her continuous support for women's and children's issues and her patronage of the "Investing in Girls" program. This program represents a pioneering model in building awareness and capacities among girls, enhancing their self-confidence, and empowering them cognitively, psychologically, and socially. It reflects an advanced vision that believes women's empowerment begins with girls, and that human development is the true gateway to building a strong and stable state, in conscious integration with the Egyptian state's orientation toward investing in human capital. The program has expanded to include boys, becoming the Noura Program and the Nour Program, among the most important initiatives targeting the age group from 10 to 14 years.

The future ambition for the role of Egyptian women goes beyond mere participation to full partnership in shaping public policies, leading development pathways, and contributing to building the New Republic on foundations of justice and sustainability. This requires continued investment in education, health, and capacity building; confronting certain cultural challenges; developing supportive media and cultural discourse on women's rights; and reinforcing the image of women as partners in development rather than subordinate parties.

In conclusion, on International Women's Day, we affirm that Egyptian women will remain, as they have always been throughout history, the conscience of the nation, the guardians of its identity, and the makers of its future. Their empowerment is not an option, but a national necessity and a shared responsibility, and a true guarantee of Egypt's progress and stability in a world where challenges are mounting and the need for the energies of its sons and daughters alike is growing.

All appreciation and respect to every Egyptian woman who has created hope, carried responsibility, and contributed through her knowledge and hard work to building the nation. May Egyptian women continue to progress and give, year after year.



Mofida Abdel-Rahman

The first woman to plead before the Court of Cassation and military courts in Egypt

19 January 1914 – 3 September 2002

She practiced law in major civil and criminal cases, opening the door for Egyptian women to enter the fields of judiciary and legal defense, which had long been dominated by men. She combined professional work with public service, participating in parliamentary life and civil society organizations, becoming a model of a woman who uses her legal expertise in service of society.



“The study of law is a pleasure unmatched by any other, because it is the study of order and justice and by nature, a woman is inclined toward both.



M ofida A bdel- R ahman



Fawzia Abdel-Sattar

A pioneer of criminal jurisprudence in the Arab world

1931 – 16 November 2019

She played a major role in establishing the presence of women in Egypt’s legal academia. Rising through the ranks at the Faculty of Law, Cairo University, she became the first woman to head a criminal law department at any Egyptian university. She also served as vice dean and contributed to developing legal curricula.

She authored key reference works on criminal law and criminal procedure, supervised numerous academic theses, and later chaired the Constitutional and Legislative Committee in the People’s Assembly—the first woman to hold this position—becoming a distinguished figure in her field and a source of pride for Egyptian women.



Supporting women's handicrafts in Upper Egypt



Women's participation in small and medium-sized enterprises



The growing role of Egyptian women in scientific achievements

On Egyptian Women: Models and Success Stories



بیمت
نلجا

Ambassador/ Naela Gabr

■ Member of Parliament
Former Head of the National Coordinating Committee for Combating Illegal Migration

Across successive historical eras, Egypt has been a nurturing and appreciative homeland for women. They appear in temple wall reliefs as embodiments of beauty and virtue, and as representations of sacred deities. At times, they are Isis, the symbol of loyalty, or Ma'at, the embodiment of justice. At other times, they emerge as powerful queens such as Hatshepsut and Cleopatra.

The journey of the Egyptian woman continues across the ages. In the hands of Egypt's greatest sculptor, Mahmoud Mokhtar, she becomes Egypt's Awakening—the peasant woman who looks toward the future while her hand touches and draws strength from the past. In this spirit, the Egyptian woman has become a successful minister, such as Dr. Hikmat Abu Zaid, Aisha Abdel Hady, and Dr. Maya Morsy. She has also served as Presidential Advisor for National Security, Ambassador Fayza Aboul Naga, and as an artist whose fame fills the horizons of art and creativity, including Umm Kulthum, Faten Hamama, Farida Fahmy, and Inji Aflatoun.

I can also speak firsthand about my own experience as a diplomat. I advanced through the professional ranks from attaché to ambassador plenipotentiary. I served in major missions and embassies, including Paris, South Africa, and Geneva. I held key positions at the Ministry's headquarters, from serving as the first Director of the Human Rights Department to becoming Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Ministry's largest sector, the Multilateral Affairs Sector.

I later assumed the presidency of the Ministerial Committee for Combating and Preventing Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking, reporting to the Prime Minister, from 2016 to 2026. This role reflected the government's confidence in the competence and capabilities of Egyptian women.

International representation also offers distinguished examples. Prominent figures have assumed the highest positions in international organizations, most notably Ambassador Mervat Tallawy and Dr. Ghada Waly. I was also nominated as an international expert to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination

against Women (CEDAW). I received the support of both the African and Arab groups, which facilitated my success in the highly competitive elections held in New York. I served for six consecutive terms, spanning nearly twenty-four years. During this period, I chaired the Committee for one term and served as Vice-Chair for two terms. I was also honored to represent the President of the Republic at the International Organization of La Francophonie for ten years. In recognition of my services to French culture, France awarded me the Order of Knight.

It is widely recognized that women's representation of their country in international forums is a key indicator of a state's seriousness in implementing principles and standards related to women's rights. It also reflects the state's commitment to fulfilling its contractual obligations arising from relevant United Nations human rights conventions.

“ I was nominated as an international expert to serve on one of the United Nations' most important committees concerned with women, the CEDAW Committee. I received the support of both the African and Arab groups, which facilitated my success in the highly competitive elections held in New York. I served for six consecutive terms, spanning nearly 24 years, including a period during which I chaired the committee and two terms as Vice-Chair.

Today, having been honored by my appointment by the President as the first diplomat to enter Parliament, I view this moment as the culmination of a long professional journey. It is an honor I deeply value. It enables me to give voice, within the legislative chamber, to the hopes and aspirations of Egyptian women, as well as to the concerns of diverse social groups with whom I worked closely for many years while combating irregular migration and human trafficking.

These two issues—irregular migration and human trafficking—are closely connected to women's social, economic, and cultural empowerment. They are therefore central to the broader concept of human rights in its comprehensive sense, whether political or social. Legislative work is, at its core, a direct expression of the lived reality we encounter every day and of the pressing issues that affect both individuals and society.

After this brief overview of my professional experience, presented as a reflection of women's role in society and the support extended to them, it is important to highlight several models I had the privilege of engaging with during my public service. These models reflect the diversity of the active and influential roles assumed by Egyptian women across society.

Women in Education:

Women, particularly at the university level, demonstrate broad and distinguished academic engagement. Their capacity for communication, achievement, and interaction with scientific knowledge is remarkable. They have also assumed the highest academic and executive positions in a number of university faculties.



I was honored to be appointed by His Excellency the President of the Republic as the first diplomat to enter Parliament. I consider this a culmination of my professional career over the past years and a distinction I take great pride in. It has enabled me to represent, within the parliamentary chamber, the hopes and aspirations of Egyptian women, as well as those of the various social groups I have closely engaged with over many years.



I have worked with a diverse group of women engaged in traditional crafts, including jewelry-making and handicrafts such as the products and arts of Sinai and Al-Arish, as well as the industries of the New Valley, which are now showcased in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. I have also been involved with talli embroidery in Upper Egypt. I take great pride in the achievements of one of the projects supported by the National Committee over the years.



Women playing a vital role in Red Crescent activities, including humanitarian relief and emergency response efforts.

Women in Civil Society:

I worked closely with numerous civil society organizations active across a wide range of fields. I observed in women a genuine commitment to providing support to various segments of the local community, as well as to migrants and refugees residing in Egypt. The Egyptian Red Crescent, which I have known over many years, stands as a bright example. What it provides today—through its volunteers and active leadership—of humanitarian relief to the Palestinian people represents an honorable model of Egyptian women's role in volunteer work.

Women in Small and Micro Enterprises: During my visits to governorates in both the north and south of the country, I encountered women whose ideas skillfully combine tradition and modernity. Their ability to seize available opportunities is both impressive and inspiring. According to officials at institutions providing credit facilities, women have consistently demonstrated full commitment to meeting their financial obligations, with no record of default.

Women in Media:

During my tenure as Chair of the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking, I met many women working in radio, television—both public and private—and print journalism. I was deeply impressed by their professionalism, their dedication to accuracy, and their sincere engagement with national issues.

Women in Traditional Crafts:

I worked with a diverse group of women engaged in heritage crafts, including jewelry making and handicrafts from Sinai and Al-Arish, as well as industries from the New Valley that are now exhibited in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. I also encountered the distinctive talli embroidery of Upper Egypt. I take particular pride in a project supported by the National Committee over several years to assist female breadwinners in Historic Cairo. The project was recently



The former Chair of the National Coordinating Committee for Combating Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking visits an Applied Technology School in Alexandria and a handicrafts exhibition in Minya, highlighting efforts to empower youth and support local industries



visited by the Queen of Spain, who expressed strong admiration for its products, especially the copper jewelry. She purchased several pieces and appeared wearing them in Egyptian and international media.

Female Students in Technical and Technological Schools:

I met many students and was impressed by their academic abilities and proficiency in foreign languages, particularly English, in technical schools—especially in Upper Egypt. I also observed their enthusiasm for learning and their excellence in the competition organized by the Ministerial Committee as part of the awareness campaign on the risks of irregular migration.

Domestic Workers:

I met this group of hardworking women on several occasions. I was keen to affirm the value of their work and the respect they deserve from society. Working women often need support at home, whether in caring for children or the elderly. Both depend on domestic workers. It is therefore essential to provide them with moral and legal protection. In this context, I was honored to participate in the drafting committee, chaired by the Minister of Labor, for the Domestic Workers Law. I hope it will be presented during the current parliamentary session in preparation for prompt discussion and adoption.

My personal and professional experience clearly demonstrates that women play a vital role across all areas of life and in all sectors of society. The state is committed to supporting Egyptian women not only through legislation, but also through political and economic backing. At the same time, Egyptian women continue to fulfill their responsibilities within both the family and the workplace, affirming that they are not merely half of society, but also the supporters, protectors, and safeguarders of the other half.

With deep respect and appreciation for the Egyptian woman.



Rose El-Youssef

Founder of Rose El-Youssef magazine and a pioneer of Egyptian journalism

10 January 1898 – 10 April 1958

One of the most prominent pioneers in the history of journalism and the arts in Egypt and the Arab world. She began her career as a stage actress before founding one of the most influential and progressive journalistic platforms. Her magazine, Rose El-Youssef, became a forum for critical thought and national issues, helping to shape generations of journalists and writers who enriched Egypt's cultural and political life.

Her career embodied the model of a woman who carves out her place at the heart of public life, despite the difficult social and economic conditions that marked her early beginnings.



Journalism is a mission before it is a profession



Rose El-Youssef



Amina El-Saeed

The first woman to become editor-in-chief of the renowned women's magazine Hawaa

31 May 1914 – 13 August, 1995

One of the most prominent advocates for women's rights in modern Egypt. She began her career at Al-Musawwar magazine before becoming editor-in-chief of Hawaa, transforming it into a platform addressing issues of women, family, education, and work within a progressive vision aligned with the modern state.

She also chaired the board of Dar Al-Hilal, and her writings played a key role in shaping generations' awareness of equality and social justice.



Women's freedom is part of society's freedom



Amina El-Saeed



The increased representation of women in the Egyptian House of Representatives

The Role of the Egyptian State in Women's Empowerment: A Realistic View of the Present and the Future



ضمير الوطن

Each year, International Women's Day returns as a moment of recognition and appreciation. In Egypt, however, this occasion carries a distinctive sense of pride and deeper meaning, holding a special place in the collective consciousness of society. Since ancient times, women have been genuine partners in the course of daily life and in shaping history. They have contributed to building the family and to forming the national values that have shaped a uniquely Egyptian identity—one defined by determination, resilience, and the ability to confront challenges. With Egypt's transition into the modern state, the role of women has evolved beyond simply extending this historical legacy. Today, women are authentic partners in leading the nation's development and responding to the demands of modern life, contributing to the formulation of state policy and the achievement of its broader national goals.

Prof. Dr. Sherifa Fouad Sherif

■ Executive Director, National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development

This vision has been reflected in strong political support, most notably through the launch of the Egyptian Women's Empowerment Strategy 2030—a comprehensive roadmap designed to strengthen women's participation in all spheres of political, economic, social, and cultural life. The strategy is structured around four main pillars: political, economic, and social empowerment, in addition to mechanisms for protection and equality. Together, these pillars aim to ensure equal opportunities and promote women's effective and fair participation in public life.

The strategy defines empowerment through five core elements: self-worth, the right to choose one's path, access to resources, the ability to control one's life circumstances, and the capacity to positively influence social change. To ensure accurate monitoring of progress, the Egyptian Women Observatory was established as an independent mechanism to bridge data gaps and track progress against national targets, supporting evidence-based decision-making. According to the strategy's official framework, the state aims to increase women's representation in decision-making positions—including reaching 35 percent representation in the House of Representatives by 2030—while also expanding women's presence in judicial bodies, senior administrative positions, and public office more broadly.

Within this framework, the National Council for Women (Egypt) has emerged as the leading national institution responsible for implementing empowerment programs and policies. The Council has not functioned merely as an advisory body; rather, it has served as a bridge between the state and society. Through its initiatives, the Council has launched training and capacity-building programs, promoted awareness of women's rights, and coordinated efforts with government entities, civil society organizations, and international partners to strengthen women's leadership capacities. It has also implemented a wide range of specialized programs, including health awareness initiatives, literacy programs, and social and economic support initiatives that reinforce women's role as essential partners in national development.

As institutional efforts to support women have expanded, these initiatives have not been limited to the National Council for Women alone. Other national institutions have played a pivotal role in building women's capacities and preparing future leaders. Among the most prominent of these is the National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development, which works to advance the objectives of Egypt Vision 2030 and to strengthen women's participation in leadership and decision-making roles. In cooperation with the National Anti-Corruption Academy (Egypt), the institute has launched a comprehensive set of leadership programs.

These initiatives include the Egyptian Women Leadership Qualification Program, designed to empower women working in the administrative apparatus and in the governorates; the Women in Development Program, aimed at strengthening women's contributions to comprehensive development pathways; and the African Women Leaders Training Program, whose impact extends across the continent. The institute has also developed the National Women in Leadership Program in collaboration with the National Council for Women and the International Labour Organization's International Training Centre.

To ensure sustainable impact, the institute launched the Mentorship Program for Women Leaders in the Egyptian Government, bringing together program graduates to refine their skills in communication, decision-making, and problem-solving. In addition, the initiative "She for a Digital Future" stands out as a key effort to close the digital gender gap. By equipping women with both technological



and leadership competencies, the initiative contributes to building a generation of qualified female leaders and strengthening women's presence in decision-making positions—an essential step toward building a sustainable future.

The data clearly reflects the significant progress made in women's representation in Egypt. By 2025, women held 163 seats in the Egyptian House of Representatives, compared with just nine seats in 2012. In the Egyptian Senate, women occupied 41 seats in 2025. Today, Egypt's parliamentary system—across both chambers—ranks first in the Arab world in terms of the number of female members.

Within the executive branch, women represented around 16% of government positions in 2024. In earlier years, Egypt recorded the highest level of female ministerial representation in its modern history, reaching 24.2%, a figure that exceeds the Arab regional average of 13.6%. The judiciary has also witnessed remarkable progress, with 3,918 female judges serving in 2025. A historic milestone was achieved with women joining the State Council of Egypt, where 137 female

judges were appointed in 2024. Women's presence in the diplomatic corps has also continued to grow steadily.

In senior administrative positions, the proportion of women rose to 32% by 2022, compared with 18.3% in 2016.

“Efforts have been doubled to enhance women's participation in the labor market and to support entrepreneurship through small and microloans, as well as digital savings and lending programs such as “Tahweesha.” Numerous initiatives, including “Mastoura,” have contributed to financing more than 30,000 projects, with total investments of 730 million Egyptian pounds.”



Early screening for women as part of the “100 Million Health” campaign

At the level of local administration, women have achieved unprecedented representation. Alexandria ranked first among Egypt’s governorates in women’s representation in leadership positions at 56%, followed by Asyut with 50%.

The table below summarizes the approximate development in women’s representation between 2020 and 2025:

| Institution / Position | Approximate Representation |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| House of Representatives | 27–28% |
| Senate | 13.7% |
| Government (female ministers) | 16–25% |
| Deputy Governors | 33% |
| State Council | 23% |
| Diplomatic Corps | 30% |

Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics and periodic monitoring reports of the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030.

However, women’s empowerment cannot be measured solely in economic and political terms. For several years, the Egyptian state has placed strong emphasis on social protection programs aimed at strengthening family stability and providing a safe and supportive environment for women. This commitment has been clearly reflected in the presidential initiative Decent Life Initiative (Hayah Karima).

Launched as part of the government’s broader efforts to develop rural Egypt and improve access to essential services and infrastructure, the initiative seeks to enhance the quality of life for families in villages and the country’s most underserved areas. Millions of households benefit directly and indirectly from its programs—most notably women, who play a central role in family stability and social and economic empowerment. According to official reports, the first phase of the initiative achieved high implementation rates, benefiting approximately 18 million citizens living in targeted villages and communities through thousands of development projects in healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Many of these services focus on supporting the family, mothers, and children, thereby strengthening women’s ability to contribute within their

social environment.

Alongside these efforts, the government launched the Takaful and Karama Program as a cornerstone of Egypt’s social protection system. This cash-transfer program currently receives approximately 41 billion Egyptian pounds annually under the 2024–2025 national plan, providing financial support to low-income households. The program currently benefits around 4.7 million families across Egypt.

Official statistics indicate that about 75% of Takaful and Karama beneficiaries are women, highlighting the program’s critical role in supporting women within the family structure and broader social framework. It also encourages women’s participation in education, employment, and community life. Since its launch, the program has provided financial assistance to thousands of families while linking support to key social conditions—such as maintaining children’s education and access to healthcare. This approach has enabled many women to benefit from the national social safety net and gradually move toward greater economic and social independence.

In the health sector, the Egyptian state, in cooperation with the National Council for Women (Egypt), has launched several important initiatives. Among the most prominent is the 100

Million Health Initiative, which includes nationwide early detection campaigns for breast cancer, as well as programs supporting women’s health and maternal and fetal care. These efforts have been accompanied by investments in women’s health centers, alongside nationwide campaigns to combat female genital mutilation and strengthen legal penalties against the practice. Millions of women have also benefited from the country’s comprehensive healthcare system and specialized medical programs.

In the education sector, the state has worked to expand opportunities for girls’ education through literacy initiatives, improved access to schooling in rural areas,

“**The proportion of women in the government rose to about 16% in 2024. In previous years, Egypt recorded the highest level of female ministerial representation in its modern history, reaching 24.2%—a figure that exceeds the Arab world average of 13.6%.**”



Participation of women members of Egyptian judicial bodies in the International Day of Women Judges

and the provision of educational scholarships. Additional programs have focused on empowering girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), along with digital education initiatives designed to integrate women into the knowledge-based economy.

At the level of social empowerment, a wide range of programs have been implemented, including family planning initiatives, support programs for female heads of households, and measures to strengthen legal protection for women. Broad public awareness campaigns—such as The Taa Marbouta: The Secret of Your Strength Campaign—have also been launched to promote women’s empowerment. Institutional support mechanisms have expanded as well, including the establishment of units dedicated to protecting women from violence and shelters for women at risk. In addition, 50 units to combat violence against women have been established in Egyptian universities to ensure a safe environment for female students.

In terms of economic empowerment, efforts have intensified to strengthen women’s participation in the labor market and support female entrepreneurship. This has been achieved through microfinance and small-loan programs, as well as digital savings and lending initiatives such as the Tahweesha Program. Another important initiative, Mastoura Initiative, has helped finance more than 30,000 small projects, with total investments reaching approximately 730 million Egyptian pounds.

Egypt has also made remarkable progress in women’s financial inclusion, with participation rising from just 9% in 2015 to 69% in 2024. To further support women in the workplace, 384 equal-opportunity units have been activated at the central level to promote fair employment conditions for working women. Studies indicate that reducing the gender gap by 25% could increase global GDP by \$5.3 trillion. In the Egyptian context, achieving equal participation between men and women in the labor market could raise the country’s GDP by up to 34%.

Financial inclusion among women has also expanded significantly. The number of women with access to financial accounts has reached 23.3 million out of a total of 33.9 million, bringing the financial inclusion rate among women to 68.8%. Among young people—whose total population stands at 39.4 million—financial inclusion has risen to 53.1%, reflecting a growth rate of 65% between 2020 and 2024.

Women’s empowerment has also extended to corporate governance and board representation. The Central Bank of Egypt and the Financial Regulatory Authority (Egypt) have issued decisions requiring the inclusion of at least one

female member on the boards of companies and institutions operating in non-banking financial activities. These policies have produced measurable results in leadership positions. According to the 2024 report of the Women on Boards Observatory, the women’s representation index rose to 24.3%, a significant increase from 10% in 2019.

Companies in the non-banking financial sector recorded the highest level of representation at 26.4%, followed by listed companies on the Egyptian Exchange at 22%, while the banking sector reached 18.7%. These figures reflect the success of national policies and bring Egypt closer to achieving its strategic target of at least 30% female representation by 2030.

On International Women’s Day, responsibility is renewed for all sectors of society. National institutions must continue strengthening justice and equal opportunity, building women’s capacities, and preparing them for leadership roles. Society as a whole must recognize that supporting women is not merely a social obligation—it is a fundamental pillar of national progress. Egyptian women themselves must continue to believe in their abilities, maintain their dedication and discipline, and recognize that each achievement they attain represents another step forward in the journey of a nation striving for leadership and advancement.

In conclusion, the Egyptian woman remains the living conscience of the nation—preserving its authentic values while adding, through her knowledge, experience, and determination, new strength to its future. She is a partner and a central actor in state-building, a guardian of societal values, and an active force in the path of development. With every achievement she accomplishes, Egypt moves one step closer toward a brighter, more just, and more sustainable future.

“**The figures confirm a significant increase in women’s representation in the Egyptian House of Representatives, reaching 163 seats by 2025, compared to only 9 seats in 2012. Women’s representation in the Senate also reached 41 seats in 2025. Today, the Egyptian Parliament—across its two chambers—ranks first in the Arab world in terms of the number of female members.**”



Suhair Al-Qalamawi

A pioneer of modern Arabic literature and the first Egyptian woman to earn a PhD in Arabic literature

20 July 1911 – 4 May 1997

A leading figure in literature, criticism, and academic research in Egypt. She was the first woman to enroll at King Fuad I University and the first to earn a doctoral degree from it. Her dissertation on *One Thousand and One Nights* laid the foundation for a new perspective on Arab narrative heritage.

She held prominent cultural positions and contributed to founding the Cairo International Book Fair in 1969. She also worked toward “shaping a new kind of woman: intelligent, cultured, wise, and responsible for her life and family,” as noted in her biography.

An educated woman can change the future of an entire nation

Suhair Al-Qalamawi



Malak Hifni Nasif

Egyptian writer and advocate of social reform

25 December 1886 – 17 October 1918

Known as “Bahithat al-Badia” (“Researcher of the Desert”), she was among the earliest intellectuals to theorize the reform of women’s conditions in Egypt in the early twentieth century. She founded the “Refinement Women’s Union” and a relief association for affected Egyptians and Arabs, and participated in the first Egyptian conference in 1911, where she submitted a memorandum calling for women’s education and social advancement.

In her writings, she addressed issues of marriage, education, and work from the perspective of broader societal reform. She earned widespread respect and was regarded as a reformist voice that sought progress without confrontation.

The reform of society begins with the education of women

Malak Hifni Nasif

A Long Legacy and Future Aspirations: Women's Leadership Is Not an Exception



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Dr. Marian Qaldas

■ Member of the House of Representatives

Chief Executive Officer of the Egyptian Center for Voluntary Arbitration and Settlement of Non-Banking Financial Disputes

With the rise of the modern Egyptian state, women moved to the forefront of national life through their engagement in liberation and enlightenment movements. In the 1920s, Huda Shaarawi founded the Egyptian Feminist Union to defend women's rights. Safiya Zaghloul embodied the model of the committed national woman who actively participated in political struggle. In science, Samira Moussa left an enduring mark as the first Egyptian and Arab nuclear scientist, advancing scientific research and strengthening Egypt's scientific standing. These figures, among many others, form a bright continuum in the history of Egyptian women and a natural prelude to today's comprehensive, institutional empowerment.

This empowerment accelerated at an unprecedented pace with a clear political will that placed women's empowerment at the core of the modern state project. Political support translated into constitutional and institutional measures that reshaped women's participation across state institutions. The National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030 was launched as a comprehensive framework integrating women into sustainable development pathways. In 2017, Egypt declared the Year of the Egyptian Woman, underscoring national priority. Constitutional amendments in 2019 allocated no less than 25% of parliamentary seats to women, resulting in the highest female representation in the country's history. The role of the National Council for Women



The presence of Egyptian women in public life is neither recent nor accidental. It is a natural continuation of a deeply rooted historical role shaped over centuries. Pharaonic sources document the high status of women in ancient Egypt. They stood as equal partners to men in both religious and civic life and enjoyed full legal equality. Ancient Egyptian women proved their ability to hold senior positions. Queens such as Hatshepsut, Nefertari, and Cleopatra ruled and influenced history. Women also served in the judiciary, medicine, and other professions.

was also strengthened as a key partner in proposing legislation and public policy.

Empowerment extended in practical terms to executive, judicial, and economic spheres. The number of women ministers increased, with influential portfolios entrusted to female leaders. Women were appointed as deputy governors and to decision-making roles within regulatory and economic bodies. In a historic first, women were appointed to the State Council and the Public Prosecution after decades of exclusion, firmly entrenching equal opportunity in practice. In parallel, legislative reforms enhanced legal protection for women, while entrepreneurs and small businesses led by women received financial support and training. Women were also integrated into financial inclusion initiatives and digital transformation plans.

True empowerment is not measured by the number of seats women occupy, but by their influence on policymaking and decision-making. The Egyptian experience shows that women can move from claiming rights to managing institutions and shaping the future. This shift was enabled by a supportive political and legislative environment that recognizes merit as the sole criterion for advancement. As a result, public confidence in women's leadership has grown, even in fields once dominated by men.

Egyptian women are distinguished by professional and human qualities that combine decisiveness with compassion, and efficiency with flexibility. They often demonstrate strong organizational skills and an



President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and his spouse attend the celebration honoring Egyptian women and ideal mothers – 2018

ability to balance work demands with family needs. Studies have shown that women can lead teams with performance equal to, and at times exceeding, that of men. Institutional performance reviews consistently find leadership evaluations of women to be comparable or superior. This leadership strength is reflected in long-term strategic thinking, perseverance in the face of challenges, and clear competence in crisis management, problem-solving, and effective communication.

Within the family, mothers and wives play a central role as the backbone of household organization, child-rearing, and daily management. At the same time, they sustain a forward-looking vision that includes ambitious professional planning for themselves and their families. Experience has shown that skills developed within the family—dialogue, conflict resolution, and balancing competing needs—translate directly into workplace effectiveness. These skills enable women to lead teams confidently, make sound decisions, and manage complex situations with assurance and capability.

On a personal level, I lived through an experience that left a deep mark on my professional path. I was raised in a judicial family. My father and grandfather both served as judges in the Court of Cassation and the Courts of Appeal. From an early age, I absorbed the values of justice, discipline, and respect for the rule of law. This legacy was more than a family background. It was a way of life.

My academic journey began with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the American University in Cairo. I then studied law at Cairo University, before pursuing a master's degree in international law at Indiana University. This stage provided a solid foundation that combined management and law. It also paved the way for a career grounded in governance and institutional justice.

I later earned a PhD in law with highest honors from the Université de Montréal. At that point, I was offered

the opportunity to remain in Canada. Yet my belief in my country, and in the support of its political leadership, outweighed all offers and incentives. I returned to Egypt convinced that a state investing in education and talent

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The qualitative transformation in women's empowerment has accelerated at an unprecedented pace, driven by a clear political will that has adopted women's empowerment as an integral part of the modern state project. The support of Egypt's political leadership for women's empowerment has been translated into concrete constitutional and institutional measures that have reshaped the landscape of women's participation across various state institutions.**”

must open its doors to its people. Reality proved that conviction right.

I spent many years at the Administrative Prosecution Authority, progressing through its ranks until I reached the position of Counselor. My work focused on protecting public funds and combating corruption. This period was a practical school that refined my experience and deepened my belief that justice is not static text. It is a daily practice that requires integrity and courage.

My professional journey culminated in my appointment as Counselor at the General Administration for Arbitration at the Ministry of Justice of Egypt. This was followed by a historic decision appointing me as the first woman in the Arab world to serve

as Chief Executive Officer of the Egyptian Center for Arbitration and Non-Banking Financial Dispute Resolution, the first arbitration center established by presidential decree.



Egyptian women have maintained a strong and active presence in the political and social landscape across different eras.



Egyptian women contributing to development across various sectors

This appointment was not a personal achievement alone. It was a clear message that Egypt's political leadership believes in women's ability to assume the highest positions in economic justice and governance. During my tenure, the Center organized the first Family Business Conference in 2023 and launched the first Egyptian Arbitration Day in 2025. Both initiatives strengthened Egypt's regional standing in dispute resolution. The Center also took part in leading international arbitration forums across the Arab world and Europe, and became the first Egyptian center to participate in New York Arbitration Week. These engagements reflected Egypt's active presence on the global stage and reinforced its role within international professional platforms.

In addition, the Center received multiple recognitions in 2024 and 2025 as a healthy work environment, reflecting our commitment to building strong institutions based on efficiency and mutual respect^(*).

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I went through an experience that left a profound impact on my professional journey. I was raised in a judicial family; both my father and grandfather served as judges in the Court of Cassation and the Court of Appeal. From an early age, I was immersed in the values of justice, discipline, and respect for the law. This legacy was not merely a family background, but a way of life.”

More recently, I was appointed as a member of the Board of the National Council for Women, and later as a Member of Parliament by presidential decree. This step reflects the political leadership's trust in national female expertise and its clear support for women's empowerment. It also embodies the state's belief that women are essential partners in legislative and oversight decision-making. Alongside this, I lecture at the National Anti-Corruption Academy and participate as an international speaker promoting governance and dispute resolution culture.

My professional experience has taught me that leadership is responsibility before it is authority. Empowering women does not mean separating them from family roles. It means redefining those roles in a more balanced and just way. A woman capable of managing a family efficiently is equally capable of managing an institution, when given the opportunity within a political climate that believes in her abilities.

My mother's example played a decisive role in shaping this belief. She embodied resilience, balance, and quiet strength. A working woman who dedicated herself to her profession while managing her family with full commitment and responsibility. She was widowed at an early age, shortly after my university graduation. Yet she faced that phase with unwavering resolve. She devoted herself to raising us, instilled in us the values of integrity and diligence, and made family a non-negotiable priority.

She supported me throughout my studies. Later, she stood by me as I raised my children, while continuing her own professional journey with steady determination. She never saw a conflict between career ambition and

family commitment. Instead, she believed that true success rests on balance. She always encouraged my professional growth, without diminishing the role or value of the family.

This deeply human model shaped my conviction that empowering women does not mean separating them from their family roles. It means redefining those roles in a fairer and more balanced way. A woman who can build a strong family is equally capable of managing an institution with efficiency, when given the opportunity and when her abilities are properly valued.

And since every achievement stands on the support of a family, I must acknowledge that my husband has been my greatest source of support. He helped me maintain balance between my professional responsibilities and my family life.

The future places a greater responsibility on Egyptian women. My own experience confirms that women's empowerment and leadership in Egypt are no longer mere rhetoric or slogans. They have become state policy, political will, and an institutional path. The real challenge now lies in sustainability. This requires continued investment in education, expanded training and capacity-building, and broader participation in regional and international forums. Only then can Egypt remain a leading Arab and African model for integrating women into systems of justice and governance.

I firmly believe that a state's strength is measured not only by its institutions, but by its ability to empower all human potential without discrimination. Egyptian women have proven, historically and in practice, that they are a force for building, reform, and shaping the future. With sustained political support, the coming years will witness even stronger and more influential female presence in decision-making positions—not as an exception, but as a natural outcome of national

progress.

On International Women's Day, we do not merely celebrate a long history of contribution. We reaffirm a future path grounded in merit. We do not honor women through symbolic recognition alone. We renew a lasting

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Egyptian women are distinguished by unique professional and human qualities that combine firmness with compassion, and competence with flexibility. They often possess strong organizational skills and the ability to balance the demands of work with family needs. Studies have shown that women are capable of leading teams with equal efficiency—and sometimes even greater effectiveness—than men.”

commitment to building a fair environment that values competence, expands opportunity, and strengthens meaningful participation.

Egyptian women are a central pillar of national development. Contemporary experience—including my own—shows that women's leadership in justice and governance is not an anomaly. It is a natural expression of a state that believes equally in the abilities of its sons and daughters.

If the past proved the resilience of Egyptian women, the present confirms their capacity to lead. The future now calls on them to play an even greater role in shaping the economic and legal policies that

define development. Egyptian women no longer ask for space. They create it through their work, competence, and determination.

I have received several national and international awards that recognize professional and institutional impact. Among them are being named one of the 50 Most Influential Women of 2025 by Amwal Al Ghad newspaper under the patronage of the Prime Minister, the White Page International Global Women Power Leader 2025 award, and the African Arbitration Association's 2025 award for Best Court and Practice in Dispute Resolution, as the first Egyptian woman to receive it. I was also named the Most Influential Woman in the Legal Field in the Middle East in 2023 by The Law magazine.



Aisha Abdel Rahman

«Bint Al-Shati» (Daughter of the Shore)

The first woman to lecture at Al-Azhar

18 November 1913 – 1 December 1998

Dr. Aisha Abdel Rahman, widely known as “Bint Al-Shati” stands as an exceptional figure in the history of Egypt’s intellectual renaissance. She skillfully bridged the depth of classical heritage with the authenticity of modern thought. Beginning her journey in Damietta, she overcame significant challenges to become the first woman to lecture at Al-Azhar.

Her scholarly work was marked by rigor and a strong defense of Arab identity and the Arabic language. She emerged as a powerful reformist voice, balancing reason and tradition. She transcended the role of a university professor, emerging as an intellectual force in her own right, dedicating her life to proving women’s capability in religious and philosophical scholarship. She left behind an encyclopedic legacy that continues to inspire generations in Egypt’s intellectual and cultural development.

**A woman’s true value lies in
her faith, her character, and
the strength of her mind**

Aisha Abdel Rahman



Dawlat Abyad

«The Countess of the Stage»

A pioneer of Egyptian performing arts

29 January 1896 – 4 January 1978

Dawlat Abyad was one of the leading pioneers of Egyptian theater and cinema, earning the title “Countess of the Stage” in recognition of her artistic stature. She participated in the early development of modern Egyptian theater before transitioning to cinema in the 1930s.

She delivered memorable performances that remained deeply rooted in the consciousness of Egyptian audiences, particularly in maternal roles throughout the 1950s and 1960s. Two of her films were later included in the list of the top 100 films in the history of Egyptian cinema, reflecting the enduring value of her contribution to shaping cultural and artistic sensibilities in Egypt and the Arab world.

Egyptian Women: The Conscience of the Nation and the Strength of the Future



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On International Women's Day—a day that celebrates women's achievements and their power to drive change around the world—I feel a deep sense of pride and appreciation as I share these reflections through the platform of *Dameer Al-Watan*, a publication that has long served as a sincere voice for the concerns of our nation and the aspirations of its people. It is especially fitting that this issue be dedicated to honoring Egyptian women, who have always been—and continue to be—the beating heart and living conscience of this nation, as well as an essential partner in the journey of construction and development that our beloved country is witnessing under a wise leadership that believes nations are built by the hands of both their sons and their daughters.

Dr. Solafa Goueili

■ Executive Director of the National Training Academy

When we reflect on the pages of Egypt's rich history, we find that women have always stood at the center of events—makers of history and nurturers of generations. They have never been relegated to the margins; rather, they have been active partners in building the civilization that astonished the world. From Hatshepsut, who ruled with wisdom and strength, and Nefertari, a symbol of beauty and diplomacy, to Shajar al-Durr, who governed the country during a turbulent period, and onward to modern figures who carried the banner of knowledge, reform, and national struggle such as Huda Shaarawi and Safiya Zaghloul, among many others. The Egyptian character, with its richness and distinctiveness, owes much to the woman who instilled in her children the values of resilience, generosity, and belonging. She has been the mother who raises heroes, the wife who stands beside her partner in the most difficult circumstances, and the sister who offers boundless support. This central role, which may appear simple on the surface, is in truth the very foundation upon which our great nation has been built.

Any discussion of Egyptian women would be incomplete without recognizing their role in shaping the cultural and social consciousness of society. Egyptian women have long served as guardians of heritage and transmitters of oral traditions and folk tales that form an essential part of our collective

identity. They have been—and remain—the first teachers, passing on language, values, and ethics to their children. Through patience and generosity, they have preserved the cohesion of the Egyptian family—the nucleus of society—and instilled in their children a love for the homeland and pride in a unique identity that blends the authenticity of the past with the aspirations of the future. Every dish that carries the authentic flavor of Egypt, every grandmother's story told to grandchildren, and every folk song echoed by generations bears the imprint of a remarkable woman who safeguarded this heritage and ensured its transmission across time.

The influence of Egyptian women has not been confined within the borders of their homeland; it has extended outward, making them a source of inspiration throughout the Arab and African regions. Egypt was among the pioneering countries in granting women political and social rights. Women reached parliamentary seats as early as the 1950s, assumed ministerial positions, and represented their country in international forums with competence and distinction. This legacy of leadership places upon us today the responsibility to continue building upon it and to present a model for women's empowerment at every level.

Today, Egypt abounds with inspiring female figures across every field, more than at any previous

time. We see the scientist whose discoveries reshape humanity's future in research laboratories; the physician standing on the front lines to safeguard the health of citizens; the engineer building the structures of tomorrow in major national projects; the entrepreneur running her own enterprise and creating opportunities for others; the artist expressing the concerns of her society through creativity; and the judge presiding over the bench of justice with dignity and confidence. Each of these women—and countless others whose stories cannot all be told here—represents a living narrative of success, proving to the world that Egyptian women are capable of extraordinary achievements whenever they are given the opportunity and the means.

On a personal level, I draw daily inspiration from the strength and resilience of Egyptian women. I see it in my colleagues at work, who skillfully balance demanding professional responsibilities with their family commitments in a way that commands admiration. I see it as well in the young women training at the National Training Academy, whose passion and ambition to serve their country are evident as they engage in thoughtful discussions and present their ideas with confidence and awareness.

In this regard, I believe that the empowerment of women rests fundamentally on several indispensable pillars if genuine progress is to be achieved within any society. First, the legal

and legislative framework must support women's empowerment and clearly define the mechanisms through which it can be realized. Educational curricula should also play a vital role by instilling the principles of equality and women's empowerment in our sons and daughters from an early age. At the same time, the institutions dedicated to advancing women's rights bear a significant responsibility in defending those rights and confronting any form of discrimination or infringement.

Yet none of these measures can achieve meaningful results unless they are supported by a broader social culture that values and respects women's role and contribution. The need to advocate for women's rights and empowerment arose largely in response to harmful practices rooted in distorted cultural perceptions and misinterpretations of religious teachings. Children must therefore witness women's empowerment within their own families; young people should see it reflected in schools and universities; and citizens should observe it in public institutions, private organizations, and everyday spaces such as public transportation. My own conviction—shaped by the values of my family and upheld



throughout my professional life—has always been that the proper norm is to respect women, value their role, and ensure their empowerment within the family, the workplace, and society at large. Any deviation from this principle should be treated as an exception that must be confronted through sound cultural awareness and a correct understanding of religious values concerning women.

Driven by the deep commitment of Egypt's political leadership—foremost among them his Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi—to the belief that empowering women is a cornerstone in building the "New Republic," the National Training Academy has placed this noble objective at the forefront of its strategic priorities in developing Egypt's human capital. For us, women's empowerment is not merely a slogan to be invoked on ceremonial occasions; it is a firm conviction that investing in women's capabilities and developing their skills represents the most valuable investment in our nation's future. An empowered woman is a more informed mother, a more productive professional, and a more engaged and responsible citizen.

With this vision in mind, the academy has designed and implemented specialized training programs aimed not only at transferring knowledge but also at building character and strengthening leadership skills. Among the most notable initiatives is the "Women's School" program, launched in June 2022 as a beacon for preparing female leaders capable of assuming senior positions across various sectors of the state. The program was conceived not merely as a training course but as a comprehensive platform for achieving women's empowerment in its full sense. Politically, it equips participants with the knowledge and skills necessary for meaningful participation in decision-making and for understanding the mechanisms of modern governance. Economically, it strengthens their ability to enter the labor market and contribute to national growth through entrepreneurship and management training. Socially, it enhances awareness of their rights and their role in serving society and participating in public life.

The academy takes pride in the fact that more than 6,600 Egyptian women have benefited from programs specifically designed for women. These include initiatives such as "Women Lead for Executives," which targets current female leaders, and "Women Lead in the Egyptian Governorates," which reaches women across all regions of the country. Additional programs are also directed at Egyptian women living abroad, helping maintain their connection to the homeland and encouraging their participation in national development. Notably, women now

account for 54.3 percent of the total graduates from the academy's various programs. These figures, while a source of pride, represent far more than statistics—they reflect thousands of success stories of women who are now better equipped to serve their country and contribute to its progress.

The impact of these efforts has extended well beyond the trainees themselves, producing tangible changes within the structure of the Egyptian state. I am pleased to note that more than ninety female graduates of the academy currently hold senior leadership positions, while others have previously assumed such roles after completing their training. Among them are women who have served as governors, deputy ministers, and deputy



governors; others head public authorities within the administrative apparatus of the state. Some represent the people in both chambers of the Egyptian parliament, while others sit on the bench as judges or serve within the Public Prosecution. This qualitative transformation confirms that we are moving in the right direction toward achieving fair and balanced representation of women in decision-making positions—progress that would not have been possible without the supportive political will and forward-looking vision of the nation's leadership.

Our efforts would not be complete if the National Training Academy itself did not serve as a model for women's empowerment. We believe that meaningful change begins from within. For this reason, we have implemented policies that ensure equal opportunity and full gender equality at every stage of professional development—from recruitment and training to promotion. Today, women represent 40 percent of the academy's administrative structure and hold 26 percent of its senior and leadership positions. These figures are a source of pride for us and reaffirm that competence and capability are the only criteria for advancement within our institution.

The journey toward women's empowerment is an ongoing one, with no final destination. While we celebrate today the unprecedented achievements that have been realized, our vision remains firmly fixed on a brighter future—one in which Egyptian women reach their full potential, their capabilities and talents are fully utilized, and they stand as equal partners in every sphere of life, free from discrimination or barriers. My personal aspiration, and the vision I pursue alongside my colleagues at the National Training Academy, is to reach a day when we

no longer need to speak of "women's empowerment," because women will already be empowered—in law, in culture, and in everyday practice. Our hope is that the success stories of Egyptian women will become the norm rather than the exception.

At the National Training Academy, we reaffirm our commitment to continue working tirelessly in support of Egyptian women and to provide them with the training and preparation needed to attain the position they deserve. We will continue to refine our programs, broaden the reach of our initiatives, and seek every opportunity to unlock the immense potential of Egyptian women—not only for their own advancement, but for the future of our nation as a whole. In the period ahead, we plan to launch additional specialized programs focusing on the fields that will shape tomorrow, including digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and the green economy, ensuring that Egyptian women remain at the forefront of global developments.

In closing, on this special day, I would like to offer a heartfelt message to every Egyptian woman: you are not merely half of society—you are its very foundation. You are the shaper of generations, a source of inspiration, and a symbol of resilience. You are the conscience of the nation and a driving force toward a promising and brighter future. Be proud of yourself and of the contributions you make to your country, your family, and your community. Whatever your contribution may seem in your own eyes, it remains an essential brick in the enduring edifice of this great nation.

Wishing you continued strength, dignity, and peace on International Women's Day.



Umm Kulthum

«The Star of the East» and the
most celebrated Arab singer

31 December 1898 – 3 February 1975

One of the most iconic figures in the history of Arabic music, Umm Kulthum led an artistic revolution that reshaped the concept of musical performance. She began her career in childhood alongside her father and rose to prominence in the 1920s through highly successful recordings that achieved record-breaking sales, rivaling the era's greatest singers.

She collaborated with renowned poets such as Ahmed Shawqi and composers like Riyad Al-Sunbati, producing masterpieces including Al-Atlal ("The Ruins"), which was selected by Le Monde as one of the top 100 artistic works of the twentieth century.



**The homeland is not served
by words, but by loyalty and
dedicated action**



Umm Kulthum

Inji Aflatoun

Prominent Egyptian visual artist
and political activist

16 April 1924 – 17 April 1989

A pioneer of modern Egyptian visual art, she combined artistic creativity with political and social activism. She began her career within the surrealist movement before transitioning to social realism, portraying in her work the lives of farmers, workers, and struggling women. Her art became a visual testimony to the hardships of the working classes.

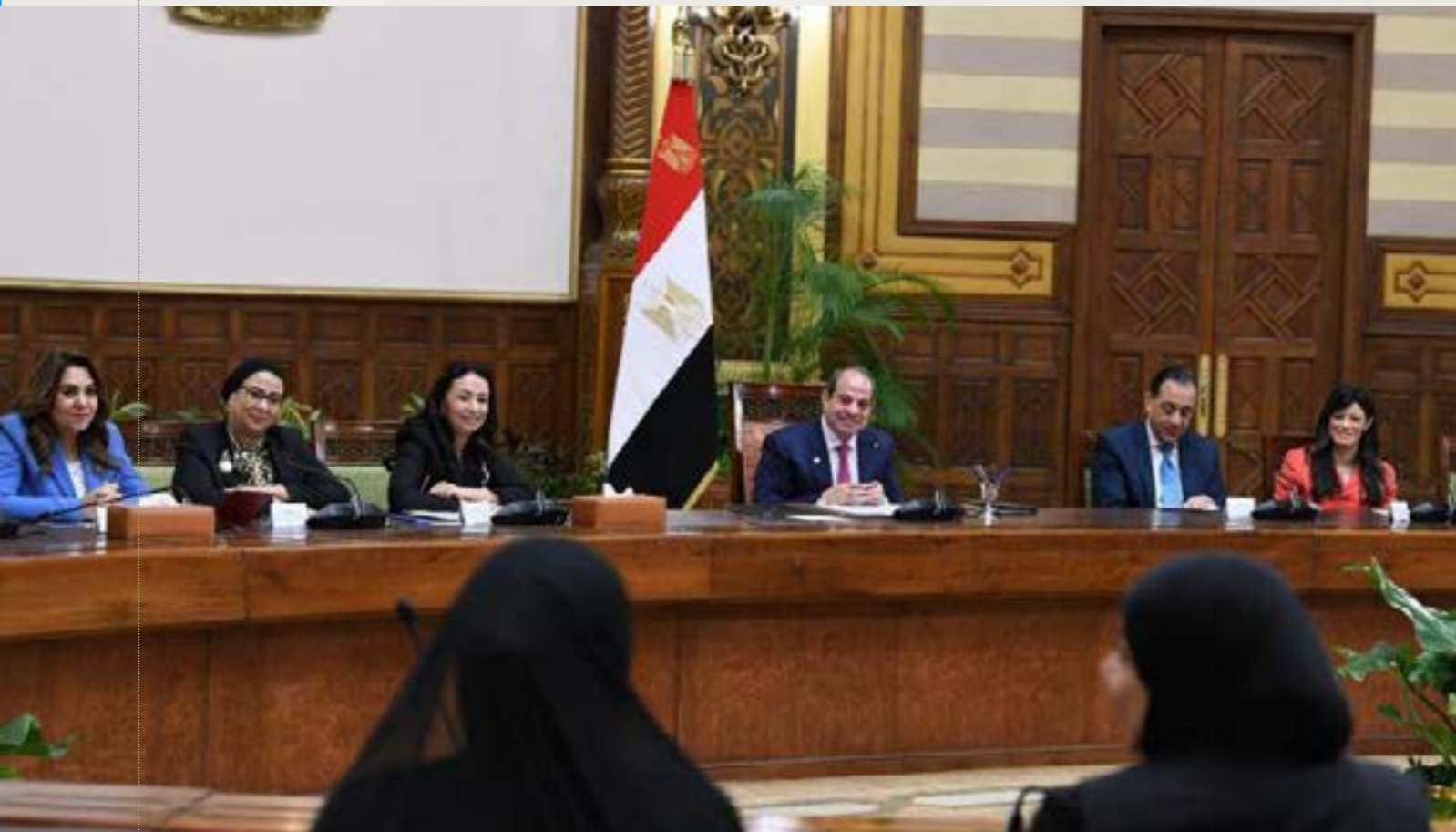
Deeply engaged in the national movement, she continued to use art as a tool for enlightenment, establishing herself as a leading figure of socially committed art in Egypt.



**Egyptian art
is never isolated**



Inji Aflatoun



President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi meets with Egyptian women on the occasion of Egyptian Women's Day – March 2025

A Decade of Empowerment.. and the Beginning of a New Phase for Egyptian Women Nationally and Internationally



ضمير
الوطن

Dr. Yasmine Moussa

■ Legal Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs
Representative of Egypt before the International Court of Justice

Over the past decade, Egypt has achieved remarkable progress in the field of women's empowerment—progress that has moved well beyond theoretical discourse to firmly establish women's active presence across diverse sectors. It has strengthened their role as key partners in decision-making, both at the national and international levels. These achievements have been made possible through the wise vision of the political leadership, embodied in President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's declaration of 2017 as the "Year of Egyptian Women" and the launch of the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030.

This strategy serves as the overarching framework guiding all state institutions in advancing women's empowerment through four integrated pillars: political empowerment and the strengthening of women's leadership roles; economic empowerment; social empowerment; and protection. These pillars align with Egypt Vision 2030, reinforcing women's role as essential partners in the nation's development process.

Egypt has succeeded in transforming the strategy's goals and initiatives from vision into tangible reality and sustainable institutional policies. These developments have been reflected in the growing participation of women within decision-making circles across the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. This period has witnessed an unprecedented expansion in women's representation in both chambers of parliament—the House of Representatives and the Senate—as well as in senior executive positions. The number of female ministers, deputy ministers, and deputy governors has increased significantly, demonstrating a genuine political commitment to empowering qualified women across all spheres of influence and policymaking.

One of the most significant gains for Egyptian women has been the strengthening of their role within the judiciary. For the first time in Egypt's history, the 2014 Constitution guaranteed women the right to hold public office and senior leadership positions in the state and to be appointed to judicial bodies without discrimination. Under wise leadership and a clear, forward-looking political vision, the number of female judges in Egypt has grown to approximately 4,000 judges across various judicial institutions. This includes three women serving on the Supreme Constitutional Court, the highest judicial authority in the country.

Egyptian women have also assumed other important judicial roles, including the country's first female president of an economic court, the first female president of a criminal court, and the leadership of one of the chambers of the Court of Cassation. In 2023, Egypt also witnessed the first appearance of a female public

prosecutor presenting a criminal case in court.

The recent approval by the President of the Republic of the new appointments to the State Council, which included the appointment of 48 women judges for the first time in its history, represents a historic step toward strengthening women's participation in the judiciary. This milestone will have a profound impact on advancing women's legal standing—both through increased representation and through greater engagement in shaping and implementing laws related to women's rights. It affirms the competence of Egyptian women and their ability to contribute meaningfully to the consolidation of justice and the rule of law. Notably, this achievement comes as Egypt prepares to mark the International Day of Women Judges on March 10.

This important milestone represents a pivotal moment in the journey of empowering Egyptian women and safeguarding their rights in the public sphere.

Women's representation within the judicial system had long been a goal since the first Egyptian woman argued a case before the national courts in the 1950s. Today's



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Egypt has succeeded in transforming its visions, initiatives, and the goals outlined in its strategy into tangible realities and sustainable institutional policies, which have been reflected in the increased participation of women in decision-making circles.



Dr. Yasmine Moussa during Egypt's oral pleadings before the International Court of Justice on Israeli practices in the Palestinian territories – The Hague, 2024

progress crowns a distinguished record of achievements by Egyptian women and demonstrates their success across the positions they hold, as well as their ability to carry the responsibilities of judicial work in all its forms—consistent with Egypt's legal framework, which guarantees equal rights and duties for women and men alike.

Egypt also has many success stories not only at the national level but internationally as well, particularly in diplomacy and international relations. Egypt broke the international glass ceiling when Dr. Ghada Waly became the first woman to serve as Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna—a position dealing with highly sensitive global issues such as combating organized crime, corruption, and terrorism. Similarly, the appointment of Dr. Yasmine Fouad as the new Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) reflects the international community's confidence in the competence of Egyptian women and their ability to manage complex global technical portfolios.

This international presence is not an isolated case, but rather the continuation of a long trajectory marked by distinguished female diplomats. Minister Faiza Aboul Naga led numerous demanding international negotiations and became the first woman to serve as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in addition to later serving as National Security Advisor. Minister Mervat Tallawy served as Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and also chaired the Health Committee at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995.

Many other prominent female leaders have served on treaty bodies related to international human rights conventions, including Moushira Khattab, Dr. Maya Morsy, Ambassador Naela Gabr, Ambassador Wafaa Bassem, and Ambassador Nadia Draz. In addition, Egypt is among the key contributors of female personnel to peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations in conflict zones around the world, reaffirming the important role of Egyptian women in promoting international peace and security.

These achievements represent steady steps in strengthening the international participation of Egyptian women and have paved the way for their entry into the field of international justice, which until recently remained one of the areas largely dominated by men. Egyptian women have long sought to enter this field in order to utilize their expertise and capabilities in support of

the rule of law and in promoting global stability and peace. Their participation in international judicial forums has helped challenge outdated stereotypes about the role and status of women in Arab and Islamic societies. It has also demonstrated that women's empowerment is

“**The ambitions of Egyptian women do not stop here; they are continuous and far-reaching, looking toward broader horizons of leadership, participation, and influence, building on the gains already achieved. Egyptian women have proven their ability to handle both national and international issues with competence and confidence.**”



Dr. Fayza Aboul Naga



Dr. Ghada Waly



Dr. Yasmine Fouad

not exclusive to any single model nor confined to Western countries; rather, it is a sovereign choice and the result of conscious political will and institutional vision that recognizes merit as the sole criterion for responsibility.

In this context, Egypt's decision in 2024 to appoint a woman to represent the country before the International Court of Justice for the first time marked an unprecedented step in advancing women's empowerment in the field of international justice. This participation came within the advisory proceedings concerning “the legal consequences arising from Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.” Notably, this process resulted in a landmark opinion from the world's highest judicial body condemning the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, as well as the practices of annexation, land seizure by force, settlement expansion, and apartheid, while calling for Israel's withdrawal from those territories.

Furthermore, appointing a woman to represent Egypt in two additional advisory proceedings—the first concerning Israel's obligations as an occupying power, and the second regarding the interpretation of the International Labour Organization Convention on

Freedom of Association—alongside the preparation of Egypt's legal submissions before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, reflects the state's strong confidence in the capabilities of its female legal experts. It underscores their ability to defend both national and international rights before the world's highest judicial institutions.

The appointment of the first Egyptian woman to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague also marked another historic milestone, reflecting both national and international recognition of the competence of Egyptian women. This development is particularly significant at a time when women's representation in international judicial institutions remains limited—whether as judges, arbitrators, or as representatives of their states in legal proceedings. Statistics indicate that women constitute no more than 15% of the total membership of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, highlighting the importance of the concrete steps Egypt has taken to ensure women's representation in the highest international judicial and arbitral bodies. It also underscores the gap that still persists globally—even in many countries that frequently advocate women's rights and gender equality—between stated commitments and the actual representation of women in international judicial and arbitral positions.

Through this step, Egypt has presented a practical model that goes beyond symbolism to embody genuine empowerment. It has broken longstanding barriers and paved the way for Egypt to become the first Arab and Islamic country to nominate a woman for membership in the International Court of Justice, the highest judicial body in the world. Such a step would mark a historic milestone and reinforce Egypt's role as a pioneer in promoting women's empowerment at the highest levels of international judicial institutions. This development represents a natural

“**Egypt's appointment of a woman to represent it before the International Court of Justice for the first time in 2024 marked an unprecedented step in the journey of women's empowerment at the level of international justice.**”

continuation of Egypt's longstanding leadership in advancing women's empowerment across the political, economic, and social spheres.

In conclusion, the trajectory of women's empowerment in Egypt over the past decade demonstrates a genuine and sustainable transformation toward firmly institutionalized policies that strengthen women's role as active partners in public life, the judiciary, and decision-making at

both the national and international levels. Despite these significant achievements, the aspirations of Egyptian women do not end here; rather, they continue to expand toward broader horizons of leadership, participation, and influence, building upon the gains already achieved. Egyptian women have proven their ability to manage national and international affairs with competence and professionalism, and to assume responsibility in the highest judicial, executive, and diplomatic positions. In doing so, they embody the political leadership's vision of integrating qualified women into centers of influence and policymaking, confirming that women's empowerment in Egypt is not merely a slogan, but a tangible reality and a model to be followed both regionally and internationally.



Women's Empowerment in Palestine: From Survival to Shaping Resilience



ضمير
الوطن

Rana Salah El-Din

■ Head of the Gender and Human Rights Unit
Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission



On October 26, 1929, the first Palestinian Women's Conference was held. At that time, Palestinian women emerged as visible actors in the political arena, openly rejecting the British Mandate and its colonial policies. This event was not merely a passing moment; rather, it marked an early milestone in the trajectory of Palestinian women's struggle and their participation in public life. From this point, the date acquired symbolic significance and was later adopted as the National Day of Palestinian Women, complementing March 8, International Women's Day, and underscoring that the leadership and activism of Palestinian women in the public sphere long preceded contemporary terminology surrounding equality and empowerment.

This reality raises an important question: Is it sufficient to measure Palestinian women's empowerment through indicators, statistics, and representation rates? Or does the true essence of empowerment lie in the capacity to endure and remain steadfast—to continue engaging in public life despite profound constraints?

International scholarship generally defines women's empowerment as a process aimed at strengthening self-confidence and developing cognitive and professional capacities. It also involves raising awareness of legal rights and the mechanisms available to access them. Empowerment thus manifests in two complementary dimensions. The first relates to the ability to make decisions and manage one's life at the individual level. The second involves expanding opportunities for participation and generating influence within the public sphere.

The concept of empowerment gained significant momentum during the 1980s and 1990s, particularly in the context of international conferences addressing women's issues and development. Since then, it has been established in scholarly and policy discourse as a multidimensional framework intersecting with various approaches—legal, social, political, and administrative. Its application, however, varies according to the social, cultural, and geographical characteristics of each society.

In Palestine, the concept takes on distinct meanings under a colonial reality that continually reshapes the public sphere through coercive change. Palestinian women face a dual struggle: they seek participation within a complex social environment while simultaneously resisting a colonial context that systematically undermines the material and

social foundations of their society. Here, the question moves beyond the conventional inquiry of how to participate and becomes a more fundamental one: how to safeguard the very conditions of survival that make participation possible in the first place.



Strategic priorities for advancing women's empowerment are emerging. These begin with strengthening psychological and social support, raising legal awareness, and recognizing women's role in community development. They also include embedding empowerment as a societal culture through educational institutions and organizations that advocate for women.

Within this analytical framework, the concept of resilience (*sumud*) emerges as the central defining feature of the Palestinian experience as a whole. At the societal level, resilience is reflected in the capacity to absorb shocks, adapt to crises, and restore balance through strong social and institutional ties. Complementing this is individual resilience—the ability to confront pressures and recover from them through a strong sense of self-efficacy and an optimistic outlook that views setbacks not as an endpoint but as an opportunity for learning.

Resilience thus functions as a primary driving force within Palestinian society. It goes beyond conventional notions of adapting to temporary crises and cannot be reduced to a simple concept of psychological coping.



Women have not been spared from targeting; they are among the detained, and they are the ones caring for the families of martyrs and prisoners. They are also workers facing a sharp decline in employment opportunities. Amid all this, their role in providing emotional and financial support has doubled, as managing uncertainty and anxiety about their children's future has become an integral part of their daily resilience.

Rather, it represents an existential strategy in the face of systematic policies of fragmentation and displacement. It manifests in the protection of dignity, identity, and presence on the land, and in the daily reorganization of life despite siege and scarcity—thereby sustaining continuity and safeguarding the foundations of collective survival.

Despite the centrality of the discourse of resilience, it is necessary to pause and adopt a careful critical perspective toward the tendency to mythologize resilience that emerged during the recent war on Gaza. In this context, some narratives portray women as possessing an unlimited capacity to endure. The danger in such portrayals lies in the possibility that

this discourse may turn into a moral burden—one that judges the victim for her humanity or moments of weakness, rather than holding accountable those responsible for her suffering.

For this reason, it is essential to distinguish between resilience as a conscious choice of resistance and its use

as a rhetorical cover that glosses over tragedy or evades accountability. Empowerment for resilience does not mean asking women to bear greater burdens. The issue is deeper than that. It involves a dual capacity: an internal capacity that protects psychological balance from erosion, and an external capacity that enables women to maintain a space for public action despite constraints. In this way, women's roles move beyond simply managing burdens toward reorganizing daily life and safeguarding family cohesion. Within the context of resilience, the family itself becomes a space where identity is reproduced, and women emerge as transmitters of collective memory and guardians of the moral fabric of society.

Resilience, however, cannot be sustained without genuine empowerment that equips women with the tools for meaningful action. Without such empowerment, resilience risks becoming nothing more than forced endurance of pain, devoid of opportunities for change. Women's empowerment, therefore, is not an institutional luxury; it is the condition that transforms resilience from a reactive necessity into a conscious, organized, and sustainable act. This is the test that Palestinian women are experiencing today as living conditions continue to deteriorate in both the West Bank and Gaza.

The most recent Israeli assault has left behind a catastrophic humanitarian reality, producing profound and immediate consequences for women, girls, and other vulnerable groups. Women and children account for approximately 43 percent of those killed and nearly 70 percent of the injured, figures that reveal the deep impact of the war on the social fabric. The conflict has also led to a rise in the number of female-headed households following the loss or incapacitation of primary providers. As a result, the burdens of care and economic responsibility have multiplied amid the collapse of essential services. In the midst of forced displacement, securing water, food, shelter, and medicine has increasingly fallen on women's shoulders. In this context, the social role of women is no longer a matter of choice; it has become a survival strategy imposed by an exceptionally harsh reality—one that has redefined resilience from the mere endurance of suffering into the conscious management of catastrophe.

Although the severity of the situation in the West Bank differs from that of Gaza, the period following October 2023 has created a rapidly escalating reality characterized by military operations, incursions, arrests, movement restrictions, and mounting economic pressure—exacerbated by the withholding of clearance revenues and shrinking employment opportunities. Within this unstable environment, women have not been spared from direct or indirect targeting. They are among those detained, the primary supporters of families of martyrs and prisoners, and workers confronting a sharp contraction in job opportunities. Amid these pressures, their responsibilities for emotional and

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Distinguishing between resilience as a conscious choice of resistance and its use as a cover to gloss over tragedy or evade accountability is essential. It becomes clear that empowerment for resilience does not mean asking women to bear greater burdens.



material care have intensified, and managing uncertainty and anxiety about their children's future has become an inseparable part of their daily practice of resilience.

Against this complex backdrop, women's empowerment becomes visible in their ability to manage crises, preserve family cohesion, and maintain a minimum level of stability within a volatile environment. In this sense, empowerment moves beyond the narrow boundaries of statistical indicators or formal representation. It becomes a condition for survival itself—an instrument for protecting existence and dignity by adapting what is available to confront what is imposed. Yet this capacity did not emerge from a vacuum. It rests on decades of accumulated female presence within state institutions and civil society. Without this gradual expansion of women's participation in the public sphere over the past decades, their effective contribution in confronting today's crises would not have been possible.

Official statistical data show that women make up 49% of Palestinian society and have established a notable presence in the public sphere. In the civil sector, women's participation stands at approximately 48%, yet this presence is not strongly reflected in decision-making positions. Women's representation in senior and ministerial posts remains limited, not exceeding 14%, while their presence in the military sector drops to 6%.

Different patterns appear across other sectors: women constitute about 20% of the diplomatic corps, roughly 19% of the judiciary, and 27% of the public prosecution, while their representation reaches nearly 36% within the Anti-Corruption Commission. These figures indicate that women's participation in the systems of accountability and the rule of law is gradually expanding, although it still requires stronger support and advancement.

Economically, however, the gap becomes even more pronounced. Women's participation in the labor force remains at only 19%, despite their high levels of educational attainment. This disparity reflects the strain placed on the national economy itself; financial independence—one of

the key pillars of economic empowerment—thus becomes a complex path, largely dependent on the recovery of the national economic structure.

All of this points to a central reality: women's responsibilities on the ground are expanding at a faster pace than their institutional influence. Consequently, empowerment in the Palestinian context cannot be understood as a linear transition from marginalization to participation. Rather, it is a cumulative process linked to the ability to expand one's sphere of influence within a constrained public space. Empowerment, therefore, should not be viewed merely as a seasonal celebration, but as a political and societal commitment aimed at transforming women's presence into genuine institutional impact.

From this perspective, several strategic priorities emerge for strengthening women's empowerment. These begin with reinforcing psychological and social support, raising legal awareness, and recognizing women's role in social development. Empowerment must also be embedded as a social value through educational institutions

and organizations that advocate for women's rights, while negative cultural legacies surrounding women are addressed through the media and educational curricula that promote values of justice and equality.

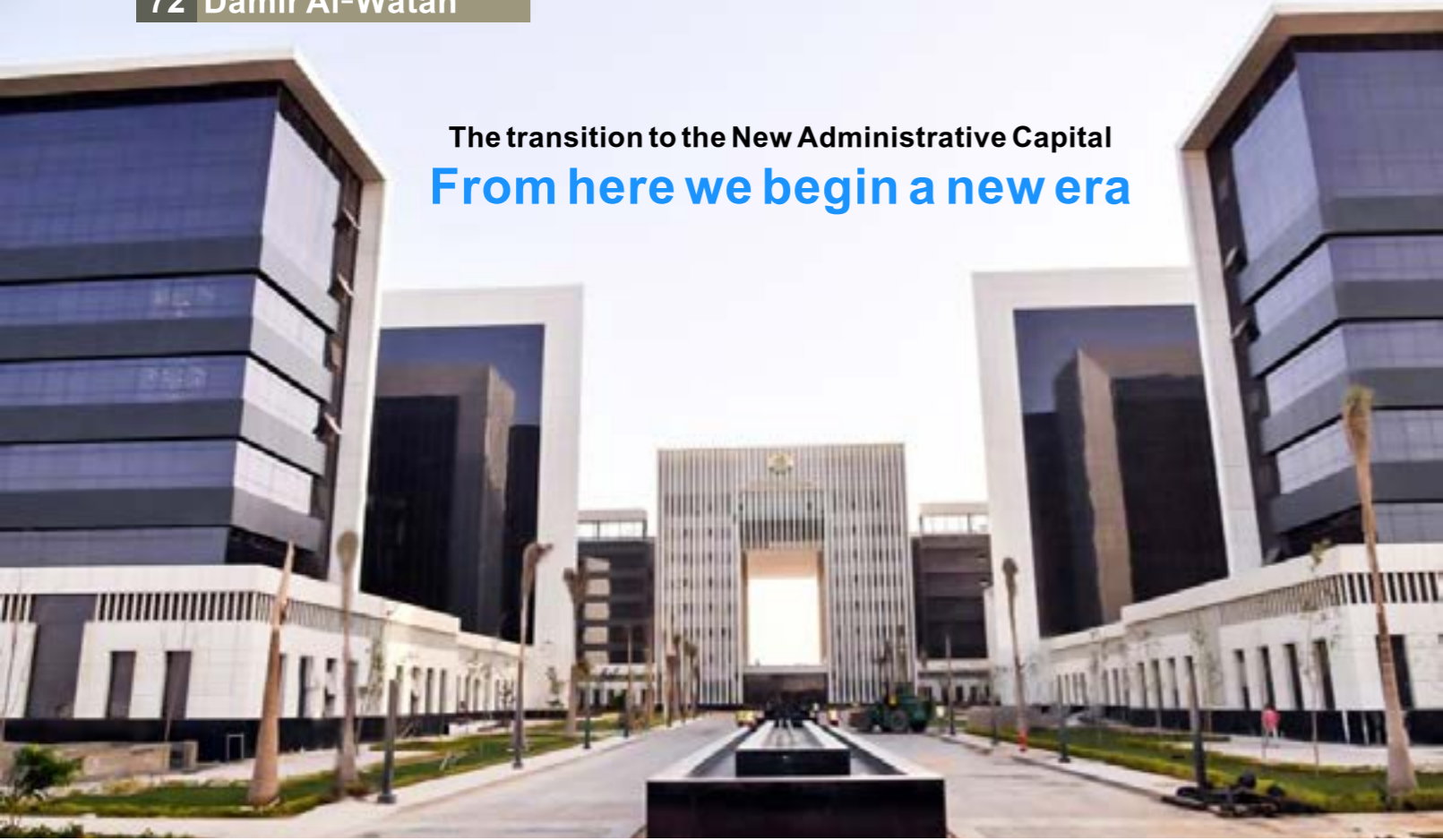
At the same time, economic empowerment requires encouraging government, private, and civil institutions to integrate women more fully into the labor system. It also calls for increasing women's participation at all electoral levels and within decision-making positions, alongside continued legal reforms that guarantee representation reflecting the historic leadership of Palestinian women. Integrating a gender perspective into planning, budgeting, and public policies remains a fundamental requirement—not as a symbolic addition, but as a standard of good governance that ensures sustainable participation.

In this regard, the experience of the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission stands out as a practical example. The institution has adopted gender-responsive policies and created safe and confidential complaint mechanisms that respond to women's needs. It has also developed measurable indicators that enhance transparency and fairness. This experience demonstrates that resilience, when supported by genuine empowerment and clear policies, becomes far more capable of enduring.

On March 8, the question is no longer whether Palestinian women are capable of action—the fields of struggle and the course of history have already settled that debate. The real challenge today lies in whether our institutions are capable of protecting that agency from exclusion and marginalization. Gender justice is not an isolated women's issue; it is a shared responsibility of both the state and society, and a core element of any national project seeking a more just and resilient future.

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Women's empowerment is reflected in their ability to manage crises, preserve family cohesion, and maintain a minimum level of stability in a turbulent environment. It thus goes beyond indicators, representation rates, and symbolic participation, becoming a condition for survival itself and a means of protecting existence and dignity—by adapting available resources to confront imposed realities.

The transition to the New Administrative Capital
From here we begin a new era



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The Administrative Control Authority's website:

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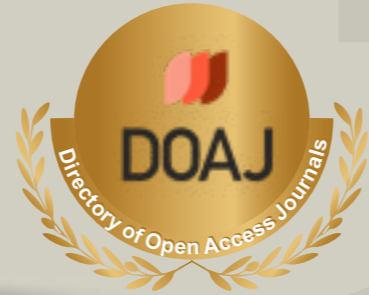
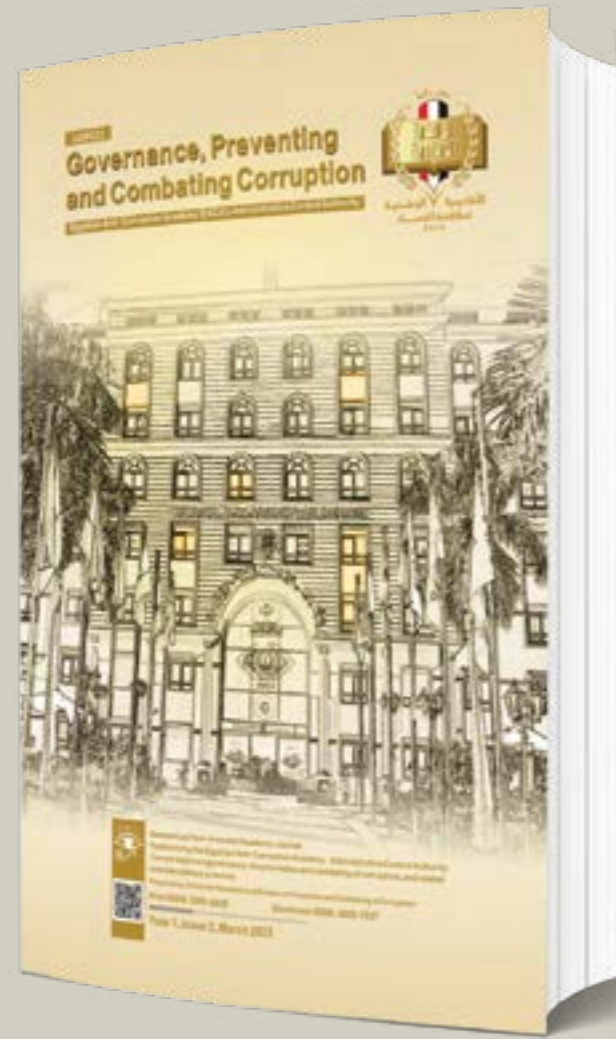
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The Journal of Governance, Preventing and Combating Corruption (JGPCC)

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To contribute to the enlightenment and knowledge by serving as a platform for objective scientific publishing and as a beacon for realistic and innovative academic research for researchers at the national, regional, continental, and international levels. The journal covers issues related to governance, prevention, and combating corruption as well as other relevant sciences, utilizing research methodologies that support the development of thinking and analysis methods to achieve clear and implementable results.





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