

Arab Women Organization (AWO)
Chair Letter

DEAR DELEGATES,
Welcome to the Arab Women Organization at CNYMUN 2027! As questions of gender equality, empowerment, and regional tensions start to increase, cooperation and diplomacy are important skills to use. We look forward to a very productful conference filled with quality discussion on modern relevant issues that affect societies across the region. Chairing the Arab Women Organization this year will be Manya Narang and Dahlia Saada.

ABOUT THE CHAIRS:
Manya is a senior at Fayetteville-Manlius High School. This is her fourth year being a part of Model United Nations and her second time chairing at CNYMUN. Outside of MUN, Manya is involved in HOSA, Pep Band, and singing in Choir. In her free time she also enjoys going to concerts, spending time with her dog, and practicing with her own rock band.

Dahlia is a junior at Fayetteville-Manlius High School. This is her third year of MUN and she is eager to chair for the first time. Outside of MUN, Dahlia enjoys playing soccer and running track. Dahlia loves going to local coffee shops to see which one has the best matcha. You will also find her spending time with her three younger siblings and cousins in her free time.

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE:
The Arab Women Organization is an intergovernmental organization working under the League of Arab States to empower women and to promote their equal participation in their societal development. . The League of Arab States, also known as the Arab League, was established in Cairo on March 22, 1945. The goal of the creation was to strengthen political, economic, and cultural ties among the Arab nations.[1] This included creating unified stances on regional issues and safeguarding their newly won independence. As Arab nations developed closer regional ties, the advancement of women became an important area of discussion. The Arab Women Organization emerged from the first Arab Women's Summit, which was held in Cairo, In November 2000 in response to an invitation from Egypt's First Lady Suzanne Mubarak. This Summit was co-organized by the National Council for Women in Egypt, the Harari Foundation in Lebanon, and the League of Arab States. The League of Arab States approved the AWO and was officially established in March 2003. The AWO is made up of a Supreme Council, an Executive Council, and a General Secretariat. All of these work together to promote cooperation and improve the status of Arab women. [2]

[1]"Arab League | History, Purpose, Members, & Achievements." *Britannica*, Britannica Editors, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Arab-League.
[2] AWO. *Arab Women Organization*, https://arab.org/directory/arab-women-organization/.

This committee allows for double delegation, meaning that two delegates represent the same country and work together throughout the committee. Both members contribute to representing their country and developing solutions to the issues that are presented.

Your topics for the Arab Women Organization (AWO) at CNYMUN 2027 will be:
1. Combatting Child Marriage
2. Expanding Women's Participation in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:

Following CNYMUN tradition, the debate will be conducted in Harvard style, meaning delegates will not be allowed to use pre-written clauses and/or resolutions during the committee. Doing so will make a delegate ineligible for awards.

To be eligible for awards, delegates must submit a position paper via email that addresses both topics before the start of the conference. Position papers should be 2-3 pages with each topic covering about a page. Position papers should outline the stance of your delegation and display an understanding of the topics, demonstrating research and knowledge of your organization's goals. When deciding on awards, the chairs will look favorably upon delegates who have put significant effort towards research/preparation, collaborate with other delegates during committee sessions, stay within their nation's policies, and get their voice heard without being overbearing.

Furthermore, CNYMUN has implemented a tiered structure of committees to ensure similar experience levels for all committee members. AWO is designated as an **intermediate** committee, as such all delegates in this committee should have some Model UN experience and have previously attended a conference. Debate should also reflect the more complex nature of this committee. In turn, the 'Best New Delegate' award will not be offered to any delegates in this committee.

The special features of mini crisis and head-to-head debate will be used throughout the committee.

For the first time ever CNYMUN will have online delegate training sessions prior to the conference. These sessions will help delegates new and experienced learn about MUN and prepare for the nuances of CNYMUN. The schedule for these sessions and steps to participate

can be found on our website, www.cnymun.org. We highly recommend all delegates regardless of experience join.

Please share position papers before the conference begins. Our emails are listed below for you to contact your chairs about any research, position papers, committee inquiries, or other questions. We also encourage you to scan our lengthy delegate preparation resources and award structure on www.cnymun.org. We wish you luck and look forward to what CNYMUN 2027 will bring.

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TOPIC 1: COMBATTING CHILD MARRIAGE

Child marriage remains as one of the most persistent barriers when it comes to gender equality and the protection for children's rights. Child marriage is defined by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as any formal marriage or informal union involving a person under the age of 18. Child marriage disproportionately affects girls and can cause them to be stuck in a cycle of poverty and be exposed to major health risks.[3] These health risks include anemia, obstructed labor, infections, preeclampsia and other health risks for the mother. A child's young age significantly increases the risk and severity of these conditions. For the baby, there can be preterm birth where the babies are born before their organs are fully ready, low birth rate, and higher infant mortality. These health risks can cause mental and emotional challenges for the mother such as depression and lack of care towards the infant. Although child marriage has declined over the last couple of decades in the Middle East and North African region (MENA), the progress has been inconsistent. Approximately one in five girls in the Middle East and North African region were married before reaching the age of 18 which is around 700,000 girls every year. [4]

For the Arab Women Organization, combating child Marriage is important because the issue goes with the organizations goals of improving the status of women and girls, and promoting gender equality throughout Arab societies. Child marriage is not an issue that can be solved with just one law or program. It can differ between countries and communities. Any effective solutions must be able to address poverty, education, legal protections, and even social norms. Today, Yemen has the highest rate of child marriage in the region, where30% of girls are married before the age of 18. Algeria has the lowest with around 2% of girls are married before 18. Algeria's administration achieved this through a high legal marriage age for both men and women which is 19.[5]

Child marriage is influenced by a combination of economic, social, educational, and legal factors. Poverty is one of the largest factors for child marriage. It can force families to use early marriage to reduce household cost or gain dowry money.[6] A woman's economic dependence can make it more difficult for her to make her own independent decisions in life later on. If her daughters grow up in the same circumstances, the practice becomes a cycle that can continue across generations. Limited access to education can also increase the risk of early marriage. When girls cannot attend school or are forced to leave school their next step in life is often to get married. Education provides girls with skills, knowledge, and future employment opportunities. Keeping girls in school can address both the immediate causes of child marriage. Adolescent girls are about 1.5 times more likely to drop out of lower secondary schooling than boys due to child marriage.[7] Yemen and Sudan have the highest recorded rates of girls stripped of their secondary education due to child marriage. Social expectations can also influence decisions about marriage for girls under 18. In some communities, families may experience pressure to marry daughters at a young age. Early marriages can be viewed as more socially acceptable when it may come down to family reputation. A 13 year old girl, Rahaf, who lives in Lebanon got married due to the severe social expectations and economic pressure in her family and community. Rahaf was in school, enjoying her studies and her friends until an 18 year old man came to ask for her hand in marriage. Rahaf did not want to marry him but her mother insisted and left her with no choice. After marriage her husband became aggressive and she was pregnant within a couple weeks. Her mother prompted the husband to bring her home. After giving birth to her child, her husband immediately took the baby away from Rahaf. Rahaf is now 15 and has never seen her daughter after her husband took the child away.[8] This is a social norm, not something inherited to a particular culture or region.

Conflict and humanitarian crises can create more challenges for preventing child marriage. The Arab region has experienced several prolonged conflicts that have displaced millions of people. These conflicts

[3] "Child marriage - UNICEF DATA." *UNICEF Data*, https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-marriage/.
[4] "Child marriage atlas." *Child marriage atlas - Girls Not Brides*, https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/en/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/atlas/.
[5] Humanium. "The impact of COVID-19 on child marriage in the Middle East and North Africa." 14 December 2021.
[6] "Married by exception: Child marriage policies in the Middle East and North Africa - Iraq." *ReliefWeb*, https://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/married-exception-child-marriage-policies-middle-east-and-north-africa.
[7] Humanium. "The impact of COVID-19 on child marriage in the Middle East and North Africa." 14 December 2021.
[8] ""I got married at the age of 13."" *UNICEF*, https://www.unicef.org/mena/stories/i-got-married-age-13-lebanon.

include wars in areas such as Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, and Sudan which can create serious dangers for girls. Child marriage has increased among people who were displaced in the region over the past decade. Displaced girls face 30% higher risk of child marriage compared to non-displaced girls.[9] Refugee and displaced girls should have access to safe educational spaces, healthcare, and legal assistance so they do not have to go through child marriage. In Yemen, there are many cases when girls get married young because their poverty gets worse. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) describes this as a "coping mechanism" used by families during economic hardship in conflicts.

Child marriage can have consequences that can affect a girl's entire life. Girls who marry before the age of 18 are more likely to leave school causing them to have fewer opportunities in life. For ages 15-17, 87% of married girls have dropped out of school. Other than marriage, health becomes a major concern in child marriage. Adolescent pregnancy can expose a young girl to major health risks and complications. Around 45% of girls married under 18 in Egypt have a child within the first year of their marriage. This statistic is high within all parts of the Middle East and North African Region.[10] Girls who marry at young ages may have limited decision making power when it comes to healthcare, pregnancy, and other personal matters.[11] In Yemen there was a 14 year old girl, Shaima, who got married at 14 and became pregnant at 15. After repeated pregnancies she developed obstetric fistula, which is an abnormal tunnel-like connection that forms between an internal organ and the surface of the skin. This is a serious childbirth injury that can lead to death. UNFPA linked her vulnerability to her young age, poverty, displacement, and conflict.[12] The consequences of child marriage can also affect families and societies. When girls are unable to complete their education or are unable to work, countries lose contributions to their economic growth. Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Tunisia all found that child marriage is associated with education, health, fertility, and a womens future earnings. Without completing school, or acquiring professional training, women miss out on higher paying jobs in the formal sector. This means that child marriage can hurt the future development of Arab countries. About 19% of women in this region of working age participate in the labor force, compared to 73% with men. Marrying young contributes to this discrepancy. [13]

Establishing legal protections is an important part of preventing child marriage. International frameworks such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, establish protections when it comes to marriage, childhood, and equality.[14] Another example is in Tunisia where the Personal Status Code was set making the absolute minimum age to 16 for both men and women. They updated their article 227 of its penal code to remove legal loopholes that previously allowed an adult offender to escape punishment by marrying their minor victim. However, legal minimum ages and exceptions are different among the Arab countries. 18 years or older is the baseline legal age across the Middle East and North African region. Sometimes there are permissible exceptions granted by courts that can go down to age 15. Personal status laws are often governed by religious or sectarian family codes which means that rules can vary based on local jurisdiction and religious courts. [15]

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[9] Building Foundation for Development Sana'a University. "Incidence of child marriage among refugees and internally displaced persons in the Middle East and South Asia: evidence from six cross-sectional surveys." *elrha*, 15 June 2023, https://www.elrha.org/resource/incidence-of-child-marriage-among-refugees-and-internally-displaced-persons-in-the-middle-east-and-south-asia-evidence-from-six-cross-sectional-surveys.

[10] National Library of Medicine. "Understanding the impacts of child marriage on the health and well-being of adolescent girls and young women residing in urban areas in Egypt." https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8761304/. Accessed

[11] "Policy and education: ways to end child marriage and prevent adolescent pregnancy." *World Health Organization (WHO)*, https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/policy-and-education--ways-to-end-child-marriage-and-prevent-adolescent-pregnancy.

[12] UNFPA. "In war-torn Yemen, a devastating childbirth injury, then a glimpse of hope." 21 5 2018, In war-torn Yemen, a devastating childbirth injury, then a glimpse of hope.

[13] "The cost of child marriage over the life cycle of girls and women: Evidence from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia." *United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*, https://www.unescwa.org/publications/cost-child-marriage-life-cycle-girls-women.

[14] "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women New York, 18 December 1979." *ohchr*, https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women.

[15] "Child Marriage in the Middle East and North Africa." *Population Reference Bureau*,

Changing social attitudes is important for achieving long-term progress. Laws may prohibit child marriage but families and communities must also understand why protecting young girls from this can benefit their society. Girls at risk of child marriage can be seen in many different ways. Some of these ways are leaving school early and dropping out of school, increased domestic responsibilities in their household, disappearance from social circles and being distant from friends, and sudden behavior changes such as signs of withdrawals, anxiety, and even depression. Women leaders play an important role in noticing these signs. Local women's organizations, teachers, healthcare workers, and others can identify the girls who are at risk of child marriage and can help them.[16] Community based organizations can also reach families more effectively compared to national institutions. Some of these organizations include Abaad (Resource Center for Gender Equality), operating in Lebanon, Ito Foundations operating in Morocco, and Sawa, also based in Lebanon. These organizations help to promote girls education,and raise awareness against forced early marriage. The Abaad (Resource Center for Gender Equality), focuses on promoting legal reforms and social change to create a society free from discrimination against women and girls. Ito Foundations heavily focuses on combating gender based violence they try to empower women by helping them achieve economic independence through jobs. The Sawa foundation focuses on providing educational support and humanitarian relief for Syrian refugees. Religious and community leaders can also contribute to help prevent this issue. Trusted community figures should promote accurate information and discourage practices that place children at risk. Organizations like the Al-Azhar Leadership Declaration in Cairo, Egypt, have partnered with international organizations like UNICEF to promote child protection. These partnerships have allowed beneficial ideas to emerge such as gender transformation programs and adolescent girls agencies. The gender transformation projects tackle structural patriarchy and unequal power between genders. Adolescent girls agencies focus on teaching life skills and self worth for young girls so that they are able to direct their own future. High ranking officials such as Imam Sheik, Dr. Saleh Abbas, have declared religious decrees declaring the minimum age of marriage and maturity is 18.[17] High profile religious groups have increasingly used Islamic law to counter any beliefs that early marriage is a religious obligation. An example of this Islamic law is the requirement of consent. A valid marriage needs full consent from both parties and a minor cannot give that consent. Another Islamic law is the maturity levels. Marriage requires the ability to manage responsibilities, financial duties, and personal decisions in a marriage. Many children who get married are not able to do that so by religious groups and leaders preaching these ideas, it can help combat child marriage. This has helped slowly reduce child marriage rates.

Delegates may find themselves aligning around different arguments. One group is likely to advocate for a stronger regional approach which is supporting a uniform minimum legal age of marriage (commonly 18). Another group may emphasize a national approach, arguing that each state should retain their own power to set their own marriage age. A third perspective may prioritize education and development. They would focus less on the legal age itself and more on measures to keep girls in secondary school.

Despite any challenges that remain, there is evidence that progress in combating child marriage in the Middle East and North African region is possible. UNICEF reports that most countries in the region have made progress over the past 25 years. Child marriage dropped from 1 in 3 young women down to 1 in 5 young women.[18] While progress has slowed down recently, particularly among girls in conflict affected areas, this improvement in efforts can make a difference.

https://www.prb.org/news/child-marriage-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa/.

[16] "UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage." *UNICEF*, https://www.unicef.org/protection/unfpa-unicef-global-programme-end-child-marriage.

[17] Rialet, Julie. "Can religious leaders be our best allies to end child marriage?" *Girls Not Brides*, https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/en/articles/can-religious-leaders-best-allies-end-child-marriage/.

[18] "Facts and figures: Child marriage in the Middle East and North Africa." *UNICEF*, https://www.unicef.org/mena/reports/facts-and-figures-child-marriage-middle-east-and-north-africa.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How can the Arab Women Organization encourage stronger legal protections against child marriage accross its member states?
2. How can member states keep girls in secondary school, particularly in conflict affected, impoverished, or rural communities?
3. Should Arab states create a minimum legal age of marriage, or should each member state determine its own age?
4. How can governments and women's organizations address social norms that encourage or normalize child marriage without pushing away the communities they are trying to help?

HELPFUL SOURCES:

- "Child Marriage" https://arabstates.unfpa.org/en/topics/child-marriage-5
- "Child Marriage in the Middle East and North Africa" https://www.unicef.org/mena/media/17696/file/ChildMarriage-Factsheet-Feb22.pdf%20.pdf
- "Child Marriage-UNICEF" https://www.unicef.org/protection/child-marriage

TOPIC 2: EXPANDING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POST-CONFLICT PEACEBUILDING

Peace building post-conflict is essential in the reconstruction of a country as well as in the prevention of future conflicts. Peace building can take place through reconstruction of the government, the education system, the healthcare system, the economy, and communities. Women tend to be affected greatly by conflicts but they remain underrepresented in decision-making and negotiations concerning the reconstruction of the country post-conflict. As of 2024, women formed only 7% of the negotiators and 14% of mediators in the peace building efforts formally conducted in the world.[19]

For the Arab Women Organization, women's increased participation in post-conflict peacebuilding is important because not only are women victims, but they can also serve as leaders to rebuild their communities and foster peace. Women have been involved in humanitarian works, community organization, mediation, education, healthcare, and politics. This kind of participation occurs outside of the formal peacebuilding negotiations.

There are many factors that may prevent women from participating in peacebuilding and decision-making processes in the Arab region. Social barriers may exist because of gender stereotypes and the expected role of women in the society. Women might not have sufficient contacts and funds to get involved in the process of decision-making. There could also be legal restrictions that would not allow women to participate equally in the public affairs in some regions. Economic barriers might include poverty and lack of access to education and work for women living in rural and conflict zones. Conflict may exacerbate all of those factors because of the destruction of the education system, displacement of population, and increased household responsibilities that fall upon women. Even when women are already involved in the peacebuilding, these barriers may prevent them from participating in official peace talks.[20]

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[19] UN Women. "Facts and Figures: Women, Peace and Security." *UN Women Knowledge Portal*, 2025. https://knowledge.unwomen.org/en/articles/facts-and-figures/facts-and-figures-women-peace-and-security

[20] UN Women. *"Situational Analysis of Women and Girls in the MENA and Arab States Region: Pillar 4 – Leadership, Participation and Access to Justice."* UN Women Arab States, 2021. https://arabstates.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20Arab%20States/Attachments/Publications/2021/11/Pillar

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 was passed on October 31, 2000 and has been regarded as one of the early international actions concerning the involvement of women in peace and security. Resolution 1325 advocates for increased participation of women in decision-making, peace negotiations, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction.[21] The Women, Peace and Security Agenda that emanates from the resolution 1325 involves the four pillars, namely participation, prevention, protection, and relief and recovery.[22]

Women's participation will be important for the peacebuilding process because they will be able to present different concerns and increase the value of the peace process. According to UN Women, involvement of women in the peace processes can increase the chances that peace agreement will last for at least two years by 20 percent and for at least 15 years by 35 percent.[23] This is particularly crucial for the Arab region, where conflicts in countries like Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Sudan, and Palestine have led to displacement, destruction of schools and healthcare systems, economic problems, and humanitarian disasters. Conflicts affect women and men differently, and women can also suffer from extra challenges such as increased caregiving roles, lack of healthcare and economic opportunities, displacement, and gender-based violence. For instance, in Sudan, there are millions of displaced women and girls due to the conflict, while hospitals in the affected areas cannot provide their services and there are fewer chances to obtain food and drinking water.[24] In Yemen, women-led organizations have contributed to drawing attention to the challenges that women face accessing services and humanitarian assistance, such as movement limitations and protection challenges.[25] The involvement of women in peacebuilding initiatives can thus bring wider perspectives to relief and recovery work because women who have encountered or addressed these issues can share their insight concerning needs that might be overlooked. Women could give information regarding the needs of displaced people, healthcare, education, food security, protection, and needs of children and other vulnerable groups. In addition to the governmental negotiations, women can participate in peacebuilding through other approaches as well. Women can work on resolving local conflicts, provide humanitarian assistance, support displaced persons and rebuild communities.

However, there are many barriers that women may have in the process of participating in peacebuilding processes. These barriers include discrimination, political underrepresentation, insufficient funding, security risks, economic inequalities, and social expectations. Women peacebuilders and human rights defenders may also be threatened because of their work.[26] For example, in Syria, women human rights defenders and women-led organizations have faced harassment, online threats, intimidation, and restrictions on their activities. In some cases, women's organizations were forced to suspend their work because of threats to their staff and members.[27]

The Arab region of the Middle East and North Africa is a region where many countries have similar challenges. Some of the conflicts, wars, political instability, displacement, and humanitarian problems faced in the region include problems faced by countries such as Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Palestine, Lebanon, and Somalia. These problems have greatly impacted citizens in the region since there has been displacement of citizens, destruction of infrastructure and property, lack

4Leadership%20Participation%20and%20Access%20to%20Justice.pdf

[21] United Nations Security Council. "Resolution 1325 (2000)." *United Nations Security Council*, 31 October 2000. https://docs.un.org/S/RES/1325(2000)

[22] UN Women. "Women, Peace and Security." *UN Women Knowledge Portal*. https://knowledge.unwomen.org/en/topics/women-peace-and-security

[23] UN Women. "High-Level Review on Women, Peace and Security: 15 Years of Security Council Resolution 1325." *UN Women*, 2015. https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-peace-security/2015

[24] UN Women. *"Press Briefing by UN Women on the Impact on Women and Girls of Two Years of Relentless Conflict in Sudan."* 11 April 2025. https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/press-briefing/2025/04/press-briefing-by-un-women-on-the-impact-on-women-and-girls-of-two-years-of-relentless-conflict-in-sudan

[25] UN Women. *"Yemen: Country Programme 2025–2026."* UN Women Transparency Portal, 2025. https://open.unwomen.org/en/yemen/2025-2026

[26] UN Women. "Eight Actions to Advance Women's Role in Peace and Security." *UN Women*, 22 October 2024. https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/explainer/8-actions-to-advance-womens-role-in-peace-and-security

[27] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *"Online Protection and Digital Security of Syrian Women Human Rights Defenders."* 10 May 2023. https://romena.ohchr.org/en/node/356

of proper education and health care services, hunger, and unemployment.[28] For instance, countries such as Syria and Yemen have in the past faced some form of conflict, resulting in displacement of citizens and inability to get basic requirements. Conflicts in Sudan have resulted in displacement and humanitarian problems, whereas the destruction of infrastructure in Palestine, especially in Gaza, has led to health services, education, food insecurity, and accommodation problems.[29]

Women can offer wider perspectives when responding to these demands since women, being a direct participant in caring for their family and community during such crises, will be able to find problems which sometimes are not always addressed during official negotiations, such as the availability of health services, education, food, water, shelter, and protection of children and refugees. Women's organizations throughout the region have already been providing humanitarian aid, supporting the displaced and helping communities restore themselves in times of conflict.[30] Involving women in peacebuilding, therefore, can help in making such efforts more sensitive to the demands of people in conflict.

In spite of such challenges, women in the region make contributions towards the development of the region by offering humanitarian assistance, ensuring the welfare of their families, being involved in local organizations, and peace building efforts. UN Women helps the countries in the Arab region to promote women's participation in peace and security matters and ensures the development of National Action Plans according to Resolution 1325.[31] Some of the countries within the Arab region have also been successful in ensuring increased participation of women in these sectors. In this regard, Iraq has succeeded in developing the third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and in increasing participation of women in political, social cohesion, and peacebuilding organizations. Besides, Iraq has established the National Women's Mediators Network in order to provide women with an opportunity to be involved in mediation and peacebuilding initiatives.[32] Jordan has succeeded in establishing the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and also in increasing involvement of women in security organizations of Jordan.[33] The other regional accomplishment has been in the establishment of Arab Women Mediators Network, which aims at facilitating interaction among women peacebuilders of various Arab states and enabling them to improve their mediative skills and involvement in the peace process.[34] According to the 2024 report by UN Women, over 128 women peace actors from the Arab region have enhanced their knowledge, skills, and opportunities of participating in the peace, political, and security processes.[35]

[28] United Nations Development Programme. *"Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Approaches in the Arab Region."* UNDP Arab States. https://www.undp.org/arab-states/humanitarian-development-peace-nexus-approaches

[29] United Nations Development Programme. *"Development as a Pathway for Conflict Prevention and Recovery."* UNDP Arab States, 29 May 2023. https://www.undp.org/arab-states/publications/development-pathway-conflict-prevention-and-recovery

[30] UN Women. *"Peace, Security and Resilience: 2023 Highlights."* UN Women. https://www.unwomen.org/en/annual-report/2024/peace-security-and-resilience

[31] UN Women. "Arab States." *UN Women*. https://www.unwomen.org/en/where-we-are/arab-states-north-africa

[32] UN Women. "Iraq: Country Programme 2025–2029." *UN Women Transparency Portal*. https://open.unwomen.org/en/country-results/IQ?plan_period=2025-2029

[33] UN Women. "Outcome JOR_D_4.1: Jordanian Government and Stakeholders Implement Commitments on Women, Peace and Security." *UN Women Transparency Portal*. https://open.unwomen.org/en/our-reach/JO/XM-DAC-41146-JOR_D_4.1

[34] UN Women. "Women, Peace and Security in the Arab States." *UN Women Arab States Regional Strategic Note*, 2022. https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Arab%20States%20PPP%20-%20EB%20February%202022%20-%20v150222f.pdf

[35] UN Women. "Outcome RAS_D_10.2: Women and Girls in Armed Conflict and Protracted Crises Meaningfully Participate in Peace and Security Processes." *UN Women Transparency Portal*, 2024. https://open.unwomen.org/en/outcome-detail/XM-DAC-41146-RAS_D_10.2

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. How can the Arab Women Organization encourage greater participation of women in peace negotiations and post-conflict decision-making across its member states?
2. How can member states support and protect women who are involved in peacebuilding, particularly in conflict-affected or politically unstable communities?
3. Should Arab states create regional standards for women's participation in post-conflict peacebuilding, or should each member state determine its own approach?
4. How can member states ensure that women have a meaningful role in rebuilding their communities after conflict, rather than only being included as representatives in peace negotiations?

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- "Advancing Women's Participation in Post-Conflict Reconstruction" https://giwps.georgetown.edu/resource/advancing-womens-participation-in-post-conflict-reconstruction/
- "Outcome RAS_D_10.2" https://open.unwomen.org/ar/outcome-detail/XM-DAC-41146-RAS_D_10.2
- "UNDP and the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda" https://www.undp.org/gender-crisis/undp-and-women-peace-and-security-agenda
- "Women's Participation in Peace Processes" https://www.cfr.org/womens-participation-in-peace-processes/index.html