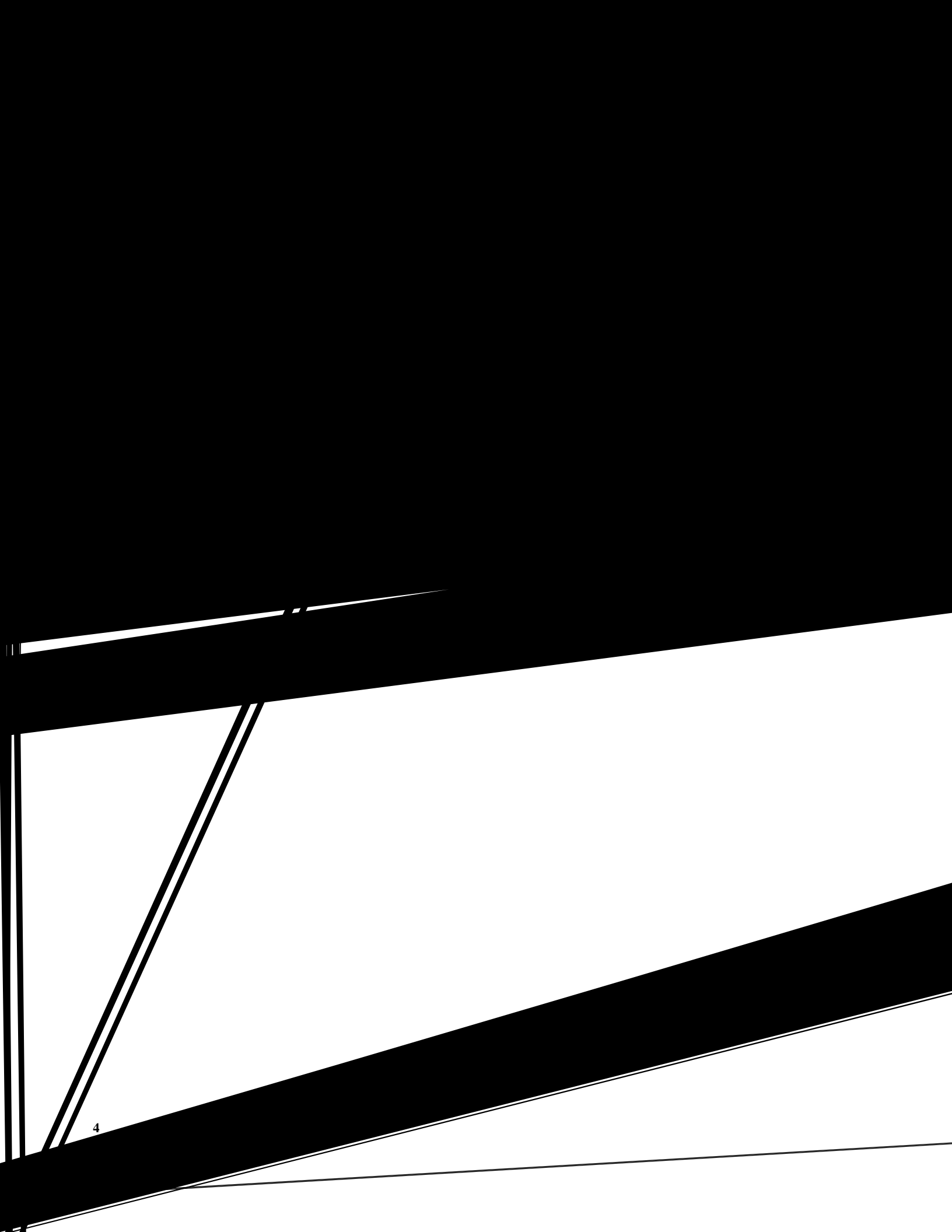


United Nations

CEDAW /C/LBN/



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Part One

Social, political and legal environment

Average life expectancy: In 2001, the average life expectancy was 72.6 years, over seven years higher than in 1970. In 2002, life expectancy at birth was 72 years for females and 67.6 years for males.

Fertility: In 2000, the average number of live births among married or previously married women was 3.16.

Infant mortality: Statistics for 2000 indicate that 52 per cent of infant deaths occurred within the first week of birth and 77 per cent within the first month. Statistics for 2002 also give breakdown figures for infant mortality at 29 females and 35 males per 1,000 infants, illustrating the importance of maternal and child health at the perinatal stage.

Deaths: In 1996, the overall death rate fell from 9 to 7.4 deaths per 1,000 inhabitants. The fall is expected to continue down to 6 deaths per 1,000 by 2021.

Statistics for 2002 give breakdown figures for adult deaths per 1,000 persons at 129 females and 201 males.

It should be pointed out that Lebanese indicators vary according to governorate and also according to area within each governorate.

Employment: Statistics show an increase in the rate of women's participation in the labour market to 25 per cent among women of working age.

an overall fall in the average number of _____

IV. Political system

Lebanon is a fully sovereign independent State and is indivisibly unified within its borders, as provided for in the Constitution and as internationally recognized.

Lebanon is a democratic parliamentary republic in which the people are the source of authority; it is they who directly elect the representatives of the legislative branch - or, in other words, the deputies - and who choose the President of the Republic. The Constitution also enshrines the principle that all Lebanese are equal before the law and emphasizes that personal liberty, individual ownership and all public freedoms are inviolable.

The shape of the political system becomes clear

freedom of belief, the practice of religious ceremonies and freedom of religious education.

It should be noted that the rate of women's participation in the judicial branch of government will be covered in part two of this report.

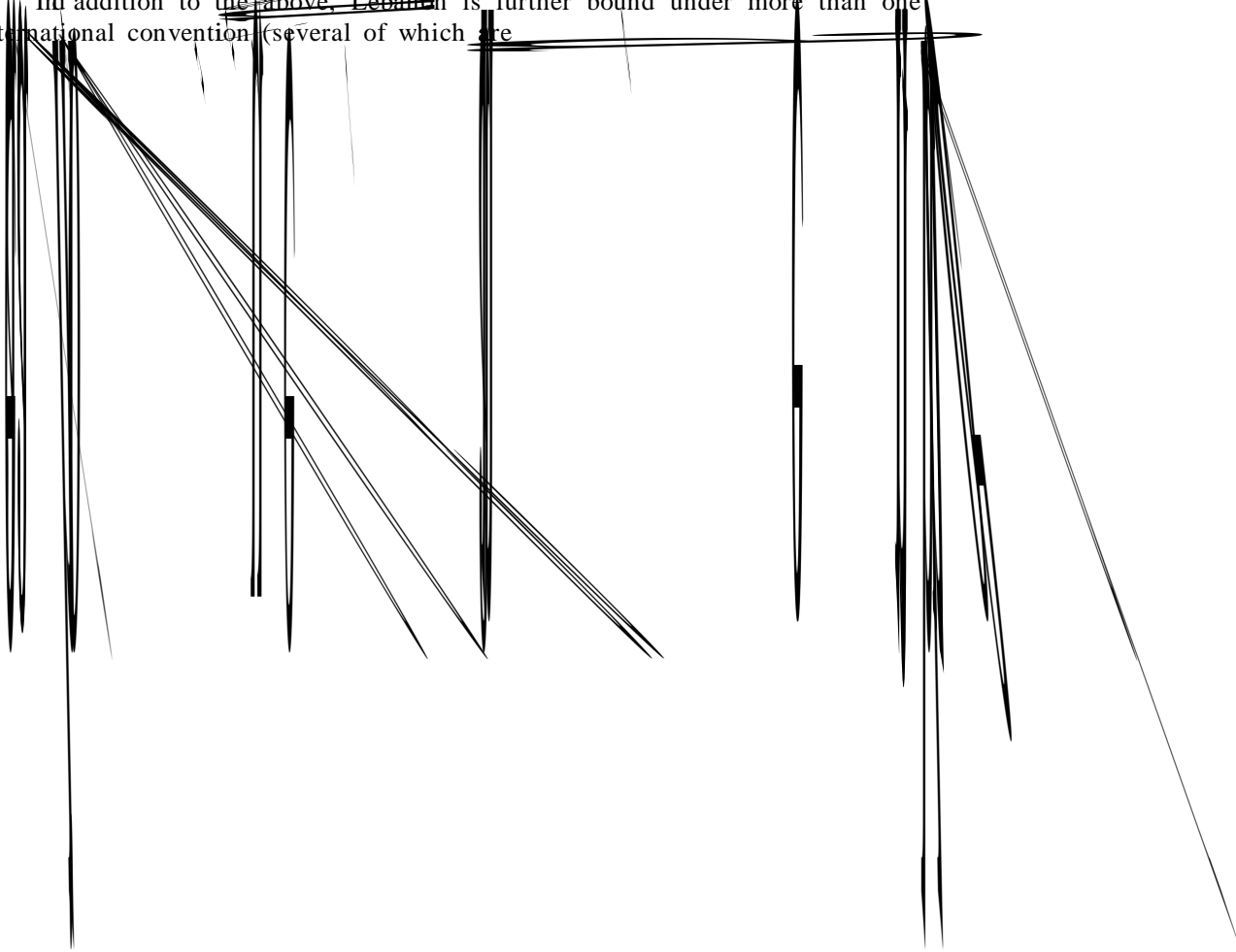
2. *Local councils*

Municipal councils: The territory of Lebanon is divided into governorates and districts. The former are headed by a governor and the latter by a district president. In towns and villages with municipal councils, the central authority is represented by the leader of the municipality, who also represents the people of the municipality and looks after their interests.

Pursuant to Legislative Decree No. 5 of 3 February 1930, the administrative districts were reorganized with effect from 1930.

and by the Universal Declaration of Human

In addition to the above, Lebanon is further bound under more than one international convention (several of which are



grown institutions. It further supports the efforts of the women's movement, collaborates in its activities and seeks to unite its efforts, in addition to which it monitors the implementation and follow-up of the United Nations conventions relating to women to which the Lebanese State is a party.

Activities of the Office in the context of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: First and foremost, it must be said that women are the main beneficiaries of all the activi

At the end of 1999, this Council, in its initial - and only - form, comprised 71 members from the sectors represented. Six of these members are women, two of whom were appointed to represent women's federations. One was elected to the bureau of the Council - the only woman to have stood for the seat - but the chairmanship of its eight committees remained a male monopoly. Five of the women have together been on the Committee for Human Development and Human Rights.

In addition to the functions which lay behind its foundation, the Council completed a study entitled "Handling the socio-economic crisis", which offers a consensual view of the methods for socio-economic advancement advocated by the sectors included in its make-up. The study listed maternal and child health as a top priority for the health policy to be adopted. It also advised that it was essential to promote the economic role of women and

1. Alliances:

The Lebanese Women's Network: In 2002, the Lebanese Women's Network was launched as a pressure group for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. The Network comprises 12 non-governmental organizations whose prime objective is to strengthen the status of women in society and eliminate discrimination against them. In the summer of 2003,

the process by working to eliminate any inconsistency between the written law and its application in practice. The Focal Point devotes substantial effort to disseminating the culture of women's rights and human rights in general through conferences, seminars, awareness-raising programmes and training.

The National Focal Point for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women comprises 62 associations that are actiot

against Women and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. With centres throughout Lebanon, the Gathering has been working since its establishment in the mid-1970s to disseminate the culture of gender equality by way of its ongoing programmes. In particular, these include such activities as holding awareness-raising symposia and seminars for chosen groups of people who come up against the discriminatory Lebanese laws against women, raising awareness of the international convent

sexual harassment, honour crimes and other manifestations of violence against women;

- It provides training for those who work with women victims of violence and those who work with them in the field, such as doctors, nurses, lawyers, policemen and so on;

- Lastly, the Committee is affiliated with all groups working in Lebanon to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and plays a part in their activities;

3. *Women's committees in Lebanese political parties, trade unions, other bodies and non-governmental organizations*

Some Lebanese women rally within the framework of

4. *Non-governmental organizations in the fields of culture, information and communications*

- The Development Activity Research and Training Group: This non-governmental organization seeks to further the social development of the community by working to spread awareness of issues relating to gender, development and poverty, in addition to building the capacities of community organizations and those working in them. To that end, it provides training, disseminates information and offers institutional and organizational support. In the past four years, eight projects have been implemented. Most of these foc

Chapter 4 Lebanon's reservations to the Convention

(Articles 9, 16 and 29 of the Convention)

The Lebanese State has made reservations, which continue to stand, to certain provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination, specifically:

1. Article 9, paragraph 2, on nationality;
2. Article 16, subparagraphs (c), (d), (f) and (g), on questions of personal status;
3. Article 29, paragraph 1, on the settlement of disputes.

I. Nationality

Nationality is closely linked to the geographical, demographic, humanitarian, national and political circumstances of the State. Some States, for instance, implement a particular demographic policy on the basis of their economic and social requirements and are prepared to grant nationality, not on the basis of origin but on the basis of residence and/or birth. Others pursue a different demographic policy and do not easily grant nationality, as is the case in Lebanon, where the situation is governed by a delicate denominational balance.

It goes without saying that States are bound by the conventions to which they accede and by the fundamental principles observed in the matter of nationality. One of these principles is that "everyone has the right to a nationality", as affirmed in article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and prior to that in The Hague Convention of 1930, which states that: "... it is in the general interest of the international community to secure that all its members should recognise that every person should have a nationality ...".

Irrespective of marital status, women in Lebanon enjoy an equal right with men to acquire, retain or change their nationality. Article 6 of Decree No. 15 of 19 January 1925, as amended by the Nationality Act of 11 January 1960, provides that: "A Lebanese woman who marries an alien shall remain Lebanese until she requests deletion of her entry from the statistical records because she

The second principle: The tie of blood is restricted to the father and excludes the mother.

The Lebanese legislator e00968 00968 0 0 -1 1866 403 Tm()Tj 7

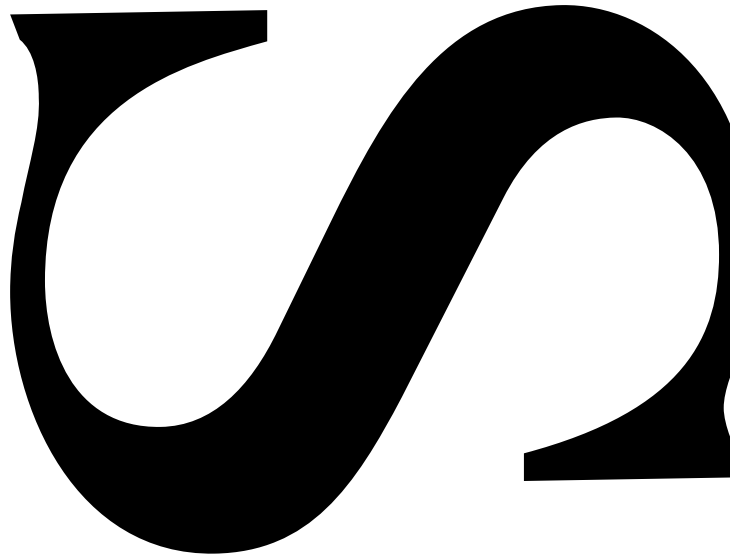
II. Personal status

Article 16 of the Convention contains two paragraphs: paragraph 1 comprises eight subparagraphs and paragraph 2 comprises one clause that essentially advocates a minimum age for marriage.

The provisions to which Lebanon has made a :

thus affirming that the Constitution recognizes the artificial personality of the religious communities, on the one hand, and their autonomy to manage their own affairs on the other, and consequently their right to defend their autonomy and their own particular religious characteristics.” (Decision No. 1/99 of 23 November 1999.)

Several attempts have nonetheless been made to produce a unified civil code of personal status in Lebanon but they all ended in failure. These included a bill on optional civil marriage tabled by President Elias Hrawi, which was approved by the Cabinet on 18 March 1998 by a majority of 24 votes to 6, with the abstention of one minister. One of the merits of the basic draft was its regam



that it does not consider itself bound by the rules set forth in the article conce

Part Two

Monitoring of the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Chapter 1

Equality before the law

(Articles 2, 11 and 15 of the Convention)

I. Legal competence

With the exception of the laws relat

the provision of article 26 of th

wife is now entitled to receive all benefits from the Civil Servants' Cooperative for her alien spouse and children in cases where no other source of benefit exists (Act No. 387 of 14 December 2001).

In 2001, a sophisticated model for the equality of male and female civil servants was also adopted concerning the receipt of benefits from the Civil Servants' Cooperative; in addition to the above, in the event that [REDACTED]

Current text

*Amendment of the Parliamentary Subcommittee on
Administration and Justice*

by that partner.

that partner.

Art. 488: The husband shall be punished by
impriso

III. Areas of discrimination against women

1. *The informal sector:* Excluded from

6. *The Code of Commerce*: Under the heading of “Rights of the wife of a bankrupt”, Lebanese law places severe restrictions on the right of a wife to recover her assets from the bankruptcy of her husband (articles 625 to 629 of the Code of Commerce). These are special restrictions that apply to the wife and not the husband; if bankruptcy is declared by a female trader, her husband is subject to the general principle with respect to the recovery of assets from the bankruptcy and not to any special provisions or restrictions. This unwarranted distinction between the bankruptcy of husbands and wives must therefore be removed.

Chapter 2

Gender stereotyping

(Article 5 of the Convention)

The data point to a steady improvement in the status of Lebanese women. This improvement, however, is not reflected to the same degree in the attitudes of the majority or among the grass roots or the elite. Eviden

the political and social representation of forces in society, including women, which are not part of that system.

As for rural women, studies indicate a wider acceptance of education for girls in rural areas, for instance, and a conservatism about them entering employment. They also show that, in rural areas, there is a clear tendency for the husband to exercise control and much less evidence of joint decision-making.

The findings of research on women reveal that an “invisible wall” stands in the way of the aspirations of the new Lebanese woman, a wall of substance and boundaries that are difficult to pinpoint. Descriptive studies point to varying attitudes on this subject; whereas female officers in associations and organizations working to strengthen the status of Lebanese women complain

- The model for ownership whereby men own the capital and women own the practice

II. Efforts to change gender stereotyping

Social action by women in Lebanon is typically non-confrontational, which conceals the extent of the endeavour to change the status of women. A closer examination, however, reveals that a number of efforts are under way to alter the prevailing cultural stereotypes, including, for example:

- (a) An

any procedure leading to the imposition of penalt

beyond the types of discipline that are non-injurious and customarily permitted.” The Act makes no distinction between males or females.

3. *Delinquency*: Statistics show a considerable disparity in the breakdown of juvenile offenders by sex in that the overwhelming majority are male; of cases reported in 2003, for example, 3 per cent were female. This percentage, however, is generally consistent with the perceived facts

c

Table 1
Juvenile offences: cases involving prostitution and associated criminal acts

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total cases, including cases in progress from previous years</i>	<i>Total juve</i>
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political rights was laid in 1953 pursuant to Legislative Decree No. 37, promulgated on 18 February 1953, and with Lebanon's accession, in 1955, to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women of 1952.

Under the C

- The vast majority have top university degrees or lengthy experience in the non-governmental sector and in public life.

The identity of the successful women candidates points to the influence of traditional factors on the potential for winning and losing (funding, return favours, cron

3. The standard of learning among the wide majority of female candidates rose in comparison with that of male candidates (as true for rural areas as for some urban areas, although literacy is the only requirement by law);
4. The percentage of winning female candidates among the total number of
f

jurisdiction of the Civil Servio

<i>Category</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>1995</i>		<i>2004</i>	
		<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
2	Counsellor or consul general	5	7.44	9	14.75
3	Secretary, counsellor or attaché	12	10.9	24	24.48

Source : The Civil Service Commission.

The p

Table 6
Breakdown of the number of judges in the State Consultat

educational level of women, their entry into the employment market and the desire of young men and women (particularly among those of voting age) to express their political views. In addition are those who attribute it to the desire of young people for material gain. This explanation, however, is not borne out by the fact that large numbers of male and females were involved. Regarding the underlying reasons for this phenomenon, its significance cannot be overlooked when it comes to training young men and women and raising their awareness of the political process.

5. *Participation in protest politics:* The participation of women in this area is linked to the whole issue of protest politics which they have actively participated in no

Features of the political system and political practices which have a negative effect include the following:

- The focus in the Lebanese political system on the elements of modern and traditional political sectarianism and feudalism linked with a conventional social structure that is usually disapproving of the assumption of leading political positions by women;
- The poor status of women in the party leaderships;
- The failure of the Election Act, which has been re

<i>Education sector</i>	<i>Females (per cent)</i>	<i>Males (per cent)</i>
Total	49.6	50.3

S

<i>Stage/sex</i>	<i>Females (per cent)</i>	<i>Males (per cent)</i>
Primary	48.2	51.8
Intermediate	52.4	47.6
Secondary:		
First form combined studies	55.1	44.9
Second form scief		

A minor study on co-education shows that it has a negative impact on females as far as their own assessment of their knowledge is concerned. Co-education also has a negative impact on their attitudes to gender, since they emerge as more obviously stereotyped and less as advocates of sexual equality. Moreover, their school results are ba

completed by 2015. These relate to early childhood, basic education, children and young people who are out of school and adult education. No special or specific measures for females are mentioned in the plan.

The illiteracy rate for females is high at 17.4 per cent (compared with 9.2 per cent for males). According to 1997 statistics, the breakdown of this rate between the sexes by age group is as follows:

Table 7
Breakdown of the illiteracy rate by sex and age group

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Females (per cent)</i>	<i>Males (per cent)</i>
15-19	2.3	2.4
20-24	3.9	2.7
50-59	36.4	12.2

Source: The Education for All plan. The statistics are taken from a study of household living conditions, conducted in 1997.

Lebanon has a national literacy committee, the aims of which are, inter alia, to combat illiteracy and halve illiteracy rates by 2015. The Committee's successes include the training of literacy tutors (210 tutors in development service centres, 389 tutors in non-governmental associations, 143 tutors in the military establishment and 15 tutors in the Directorate of Prisons). The Univers

IV. Drop-out and failure

As for programmes for children and young people who out of school, it is stated in the Education For All plan that, on the basis of the statistical data available, the number of children who out of school stands at 22,510 in the 7-11 age group and 18,037 in the 12-14 age group (sex unspecified). The State will be

which nominally includes a curriculum for women's studies within its programme. In practice, however, it is ineffective.

The Lebanese University: The Lebanese University has the largest number of university students in Lebanon. In 2002/03, from an overall total of graduates which stood at 9,378 male students and 10,940 female students, the share of the Lebanese University was 34.6 per cent of total male graduates and 51.9 per cent of total female graduates (according to the statistics of the Educational Centre for Research and Development for 2003/04).

Despite the preponderance of females among students and administrators at the Lebanese University, as a group they still have no overall input into the thinking on its public affairs and the formulation of its policies. In its own assessment of the situation, the Lebanese University omitted to make any reference to aspects concerning the status of women.

The occasional descriptive study indicates that female p

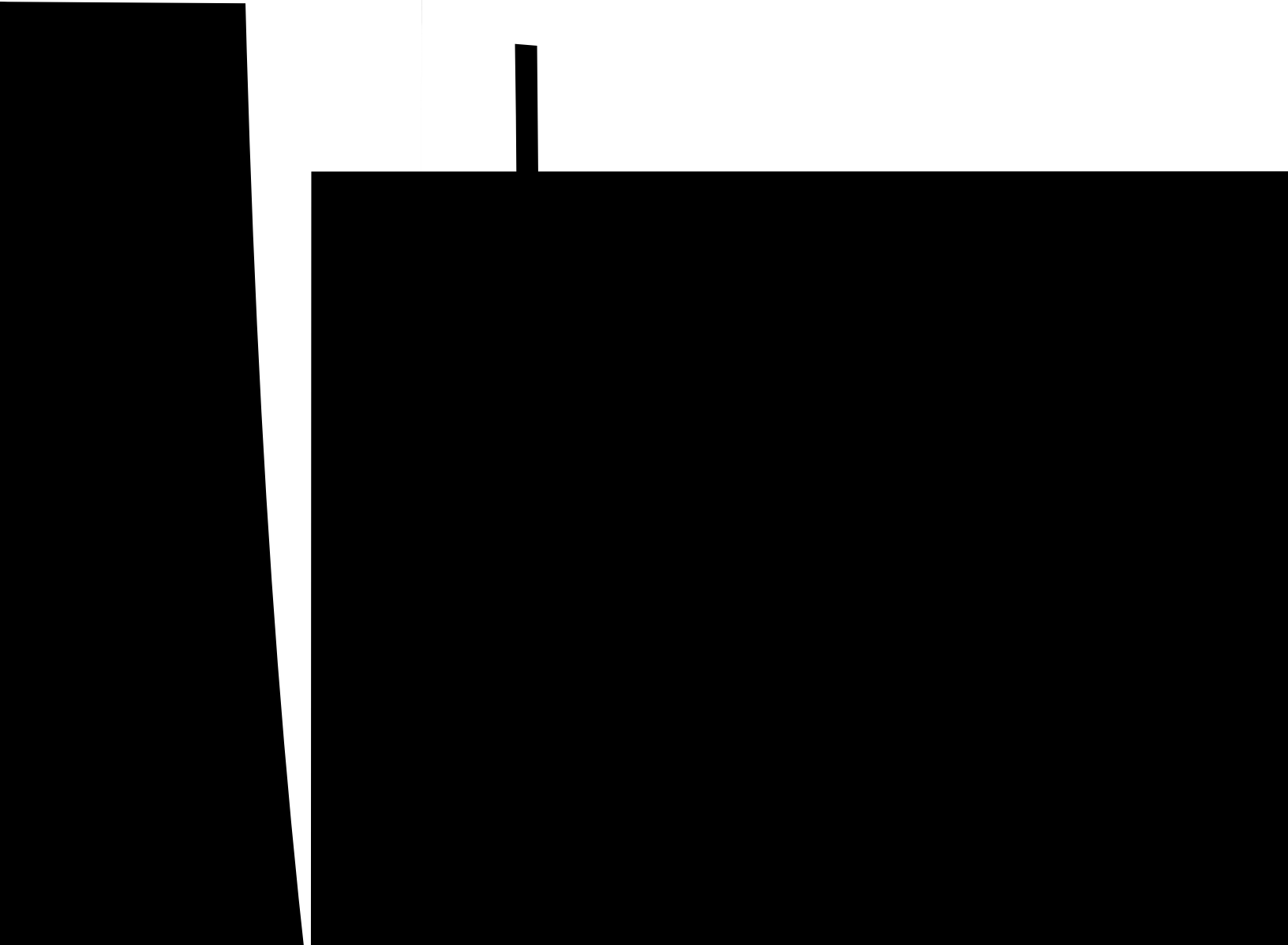
Table 9
Breakdown of female deans in some of the higher education institutions

<i>University</i>	<i>Number of female deans</i>	<i>Total deans</i>
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e ratio is strikingly low among senior executives and managers, among whomi

per cent of all working enter

women in construction is clearly even lower. There is a conspicuous amount of marginal activity in the different areas of the



Source: Agricultural statistics in Lebanon during 1998, Ministry of Industry in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2000.

The above table shows the high proportions of women workert

specializations which were previously male-dominated, such as engineering, medicine, accounting, contracting and so on, despite the apparent discrimination still affecting Lebanese women and other obstacles which compound the practical difficulties which they face, particularly in reconciling work with their family and reproductive roles.

Table 10

**Breakdown of members of unions for the liberal professions by sex in 2002
(per cent)**

<i>Name of union</i>	<i>Date founded</i>	<i>Percentage of m</i>
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A number of women who run their own enterprises operate in the mar

II. Recent legal developments

Legal developments have occurred in the following areas:

1. *Social security:* On 1 February 2002, a decree implementing Act No. 248 of 9 August 2000 was promulgated, bringing into effect the section on voluntary insurance for illness and maternity (as from 1 March 2003). Pursuant to this decree, various uninsured gr

compared with that in other countries. In
Lebanese in receipt of various health benefit payments is no higher than 46 per cent,
thus prejudicing the universal right to health. In 1999, the proportion of women who
benefited from coverage stood at 47 per cent, compared with 45 per cent for m

It can therefore be said that, despite the efforts of the State, the health sector suffers from the high cost of health services and disparity in the quantity and quality of such services, in addition to which treatment prevails over prevention. Women are as affected as men by this situation, particularly if they are in difficult economic circumstances, live in remote areas away from the capital or are over 60 years of age.

2. *Abortion:* The provisions relating to abortion have not been amended. It therefore continues to be performed in secret, placing at risk the physical and mental health of women undergoing the procedure.

Furthermore, in regard to abortion where the pregnancy is due to rape, the
Le ~~_____~~

ayyc

<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Public*</i>	<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Mayors</i>	<i>Doctors</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Voluntary</i>	<i>Total</i>
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Such health services include medical examinations, courses of treatment, medicine supplies and laboratory tests. It is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Health has a centre which supplies medicines for incurable illnesses; together with the World Health Organization (WHO), it is in charge of

Table 6
Breakdown of disabled persons benefiting from auxiliary services by region and sex (per cent)

<i>Region (by residential address)</i>	
Bekaa	12.96
South	16.43
North	16.03
Nabatiyah	8.96
Beirut	8.54
Mount Lebanon	37.07
Lebanon total	100
<i>Sex</i>	
Females	41.73
Males	58.27
Lebanon total	100

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs, Immediate outcome of the programme to ensure the rights of disabled persons, 1994-2003.

Despite the efforts made, however, the situation of disabled persons is still less than required to ensure their rights as ordinary citizens.

3. *Reproductive health:* In 2001, Lebanon officially undertook a national population policy that included reproductive health and family planning. The development in the maternal and child health indicators points to an improvement in recent years in the reproductive health situation. *Source:* UNFPA, 2002, p. 126.

period. In 50 per cent of cases, the examination was part of an ordinary visit. It should be noted that this rate recently rt

various publications, leaflets and audio-visual methods of education were produced. It carried out assessment studies, trained health workers and conducted awareness-raising campaigns in numerous areas of Lebanon. Some universities assisted in preparing the educational materials, the effect of which was tremendously positive.

The services continue to require further support, despite the efforts made. I12 553 Tm(r)Tj 1.00968 0

Officials estimate that the decla

2000, the number of these centres in which 120,539 chronic patients received medication amounted to 408. According to the Association's report for the first half of 2004, the number of centres had r

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