

The Women, Peace, & Security Index: Where Does Jordan Stand & Why?

The Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), together with Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, launched their 2019 “Women, Peace, and Security” (WPS) Index at the United Nations Headquarters on 22 October 2019. The WPS Index brings together three dimensions: Inclusion, Justice, and Security. Each of these dimensions cover sub-categories.

INCLUSION: Percentage of legislative seats held by women, females aged 15 and older who have access to a mobile phone, women aged 25 and older who are engaged in paid work, use of a banking application or other type of account among females aged 15 and older, and average years of education among women aged 25 and older.

JUSTICE: Males 15 years and older who say it’s unacceptable for women to hold paying jobs, son bias (when the ratio of boys’ to girls’ births exceeds the natural rate, and laws limiting women’s participation in society or differentiating between men and women.

SECURITY: Sense of safety and exposure to violence, physically harmed or sexually assaulted in past year by a partner, females 15 years and older who report feeling safe while walking alone at night, and deaths caused by large-scale armed conflicts, per 100,000 people.

Based on the Women, Peace, & Security Index 2019 Report, Jordan’s rank was 129 out of 167 countries with a score of (0.629/1), Norway ranks 1st in the index with a score of (0.904/1), while the United Arab Emirates tops the Arab countries, Yemen is last (167th) among all countries.

To improve the score and rank of Jordan, all relevant stakeholders should look into where the country scores low in the sub-indicators of the WPS. Where Jordan score particularly low, for example, the “women participation in the labor force”, and “parliamentary representation of women”.

Based on the ILO, the female labor force in Jordan (%14) is lower than in Sweden (%61), UK (%58), Oman (%31), Tunisia (%24), Egypt (%22) and Morocco (%21). Similarly, based on the “Women in Politics: 2020” Map, created by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women, as of 1 January 2020, the proportion of women member of Parliament in Jordan (%15.4) are lower than in Sweden (%47), UK (%33.8), Oman (%23), Tunisia (%24.9), and Morocco (%20.5).

