

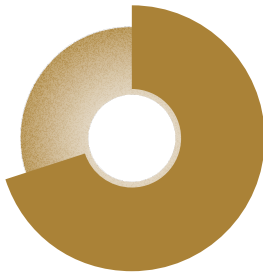
# Women's Empowerment in the UAE



**The United Arab Emirates is a leader in promoting gender equality in the Middle East.** According to the World Economic Forum's 2020 Global Gender Gap report, the UAE has achieved the highest level of gender parity in the Arab world, reflecting a national commitment to empowering women across the public and private sectors. The UAE is also a regional leader in supporting women's access to quality healthcare and higher education opportunities.

Left: HE Sarah Al Amiri, UAE Minister of State for Advanced Technology, serves as the lead scientist for the Emirates Mars Mission.

## Education



Women make up **70%** of all university graduates in the UAE.

**In the UAE, more women than men complete secondary education and enroll in university and post-graduate institutions.**

- The UAE has some of the highest rates of female enrollment in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs globally. 56% of UAE government university graduates in STEM fields are women.
- In September 2014, the UAE opened the region's first military college for women, the Khawla bint Al Azwar Military School. The state-of-the-art military college provides world-class training, physical fitness sessions, and leadership development.

## Government



Women comprise **50%** of the Federal National Council (FNC), the UAE's consultative parliamentary body.

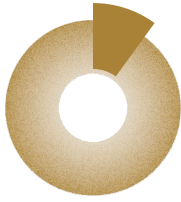
According to the Institute for Management Development World Competitiveness Yearbook 2020, **the UAE ranked first in the female parliamentary representation index.**



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- Women hold two-thirds of public sector jobs in the UAE, including 30% of senior leadership positions.
- In March 2019, two female judges were appointed to the Federal Judiciary for the first time.
- Nine women serve in the UAE Cabinet – including Minister of State for Youth Affairs Shamma Al Mazrui, who became the youngest government minister in the world when she was appointed in 2016 at the age of 22.
- In 2015, the UAE created a national Gender Balance Council, a federal entity responsible for developing and implementing initiatives to enhance gender balance across government sectors.
- In September of 2013, Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh became the UAE's first female Permanent Representative to the UN.

## Business



Women entrepreneurs account for **10%** of private business owners in the UAE.

- The UAE protects the rights of women in the workplace, encourages female participation in higher education, and guarantees equal rights under the law.
- 23 Emirati women were included in the 2020 Forbes 100 Most Powerful Arab Businesswomen list; the most of any nationality.
- Women entrepreneurs account for 10% of private business owners in the UAE.
- Emirati businesswomen manage projects worth over \$13.6 billion, according to UAE government data.

## Meeting and Exceeding International Standards

- **The UAE has provided support for women's empowerment programs through multilateral institutions.** In 2016, the UAE opened a regional office for UN Women in Abu Dhabi, the first in the region. It has donated over \$26 million to the organization since its founding in 2010 and ranked first in the Arab world and tenth globally in resource contribution in 2020. In November 2017, the UAE pledged \$50 million to the World Bank's Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative fund.
- In 2004, the UAE became a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The UAE regularly participates in and hosts international conferences on women's issues and has signed all international treaties on protecting the rights of women.

## Testimonials

**Christine Legarde, President of the European Central Bank; Former Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund**  
"The UAE's track record of empowering women... is a story to be told globally and an example to be followed around the world."

**Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women**  
"I welcome the UAE's decision [to raise the representation of Emirati women in the Federal National Council to 50 percent], which makes them a pioneer in the region, with among the highest representation of women in office globally. This means more diverse decision-making, tabling of different issues, and a strong message to all girls that they too can lead and be anything they want to be."

To learn more about how women are writing the next chapter of UAE history, visit <https://www.uae-embassy.org/>

