



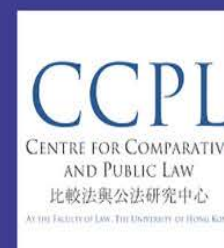
# INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on Girls in Conflict with the Law

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through  
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IN  
PARTNERSHIP  
WITH:



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# Girl Child in MENA Region



# General Information

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- Nearly half of the population in the Middle East and North Africa is aged under 24. *UNICEF*
- 1 in 5 people in the region are between 10-24 years old. UNICEF
- One in every five children in MENA is not in school, girls are twice likely to drop schools *UNICEF*
- the armed conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen brought back the number of regional out-of-school children to its 2007 level of over 14.3 million. *UNICEF*



# General Information

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- Gender inequalities continue and are exacerbated by conflicts and crises, leaving many behind. *UNICEF*
- Crises increase the vulnerability of children and youth, with girls often more at risk of gender-based violence and child marriage, one in five girls in the region are married before the age of 18 Girl child early marriage in Yemen, 32%, Palestine 19%, Iraq and Egypt 17%, Syria 13%, Jordan 10% *UNICEF*
- In the Middle East and North Africa, around 106 MILLION (more than 8 in 10) children aged 2 to 14 are regularly subjected to violent discipline at home; 87 MILLION (around 7 in 10) are punished by physical means. *UNICEF*

# General Information

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- 133 million women alive today have experienced Female Genital Mutilation. In Egypt, 92% of women and girls between 15 and 49 years of age have experienced Female Genital Mutilation. Recent data shows progress with Female Genital Mutilation reaching 61% in girls between 15 and 17 years of age down from 74% in 2008. *UN Women*
- Women and girls make up 70% of all known human trafficking victims. Adult women constitute 50% of the total number of trafficked people. 2 in 3 child victims of human trafficking are young girls. *UN women*
- Girls are still subject for the so-called honor killing.

# Girls in Conflict with the Law

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- The percentage of girls who come in conflict with the law is low in General, out of 350 Juveniles in Jordan, there are only 3 girls, while in Algeria there are 11 girls in prisons, and 6 girls in Yemen.
- Being a minority means double discrimination, many states are not opening specialized detention facilities for girls, girls are usually kept with adult prisoners. In Jordan, girls are accommodated in a specialized care center for girls that is small and lack space for developing any rehabilitation programs
- Many of the MENA countries have the so- call informal justice system, that is managed by tribal system, such as Yemen, Jordan, Palestine and Sudan and usually these systems discriminates against women and girls and lack gender sensitive procedures.
- Little disaggregated data is available about girls within the criminal justice system
- Juvenile justice system in general are not child friendly, which is reflected in girls

# Penal Reform International's Efforts

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- Advocate for the implementation of The United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders adopted in Dec 2010.
- Provide technical support to governments to promote early diversion and alternative to imprisonment for child in general and girl child in specific
- Implement projects that focus on enhancing the mental health support for children in detention and girl child
- Implement projects that focus on rehabilitation and reintegration of children in detention including girl child
- Implement projects that focus on creating a gender responsive justice systems

# Penal Reform International's Efforts

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- Implement projects that focus on enhancing childcare inside prisons and early education for children accompanying their mothers in detention through creating mothers and babies' units between 2018 till today PRI created 13 mothers and babies' unit in Yemen and Tunisia.
- Implement projects that focus on providing humanitarian assistance for women and their children in detention in conflict Zones, such as Yemen.
- provided immediate emergency response form COVID-19 for women in detention and their children and for juveniles at care centers in Jordan, Algeria and Uganda. In addition to mental support for juveniles in detention in Algeria to cope with the pandemic effect.