



Women in Power in the Kingdom of Bahrain

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Introduction

The Kingdom of Bahrain currently stands as a model in the Arab World, where it has been ranked first in terms of human development in the United Nations Development Program Report 2003. Worldwide the Kingdom has been ranked 1st amongst the Arab world and 37th amongst 174 nations covered by the report. This is a strong reflection of the standard of human development in Bahrain in general and that of Bahraini women in particular.



Introduction (con't)

Over several decades women in Bahrain have made a lot of progress, following the government's vision to empower women through education and by giving them opportunities in the labor force. This was enhanced by giving them the opportunity to become members of the cabinet and Minister of Social Development.

Introduction (con't)

In the last six years, Bahrain had undergone major political changes. On February 2002, Bahrain was declared “ a **constitutional monarchy**” with an elected parliament (which unfortunately no women had chance to be a member in it but in 2006 one woman entered the parliament), an appointed council (which included 6 women in 2002 and I was one of them and 11 women in 2006), and an independent judiciary system

Introduction (con't)

In October 2001, the Supreme Council for Women was established with a mandate to improve gender equality and to ensure that women were given greater opportunities in public life.

These opportunities strengthened the role national development and political participation, transparency, and the freedom of speech and press.

Bahraini Women and Politics

Although women have always been pillars of strength in the traditional Bahraini society, it is of late that they have started to occupy prominent positions in business and Public life.

Women's capabilities were recognized by:



- Dean of the University
- As Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Women holding a Ministerial post
- Assistant Secretarial posts in the fields of Social affairs, culture, the civil service, health and women's affairs
- More than 30 women hold general management positions in the public sector, mostly in health, education, security and defense

Bahraini Women and Politics (con't)

- One appointed as a Minister of Social Development
- One appointed as a Judge
- And in the private sector some hold senior executive positions such as Chief Executive Officers and General Managers in banking and Consultative.



Very soon appointing a young woman as an ambassador of Bahrain in (Washington DC) in United State

- In addition, women are involved in organizations and societies including the human rights and women's rights organizations
- 11 women appointed in Shura Council in 2006
- One woman win to be member of the parliament in 2006

Bahraini Women and Politics (con't)

98.4% of Bahraini's voted for the National Charter in the referendum on 14-15 February 2001.

Bahraini women failed in 2002 to win any seats in the parliament mainly **because** of cultural reasons (women who suppose to vote for them were probably followed their husband's directions).

Bahraini Women and Politics (con't)

In 2006 experience, men have directly supported female candidates through working their election teams and also SCW's political empowerment programmer offered and supported to all candidates who stand for election.

Bahraini women in Business

Mrs. Muna Al-Moayyed:

Managing Director of the family trading business

YK Al-Moayyed & Sons.

In 2001, Al-Moayyed became the first woman to be elected to the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (a non governmental body that presents all businesses in Bahrain).



Bahraini women in Business (con't)

She formed the Business women's Committee to promote the female workforce in Bahrain.

Her main aim was to discuss ways of encouraging female participation in business.

Bahraini women in Business (con't)

Shaikha Haya Bint Rashid Al-Khalifa:

On 20th September 2006 a capable Bahraini woman who holds law degrees was and former ambassador of Bahrain in France was nominated to chair the 61st United Nations General Assembly. She was the second woman to chair the UNGA in its 61st year history.



Bahraini women in Business (con't)



Mrs. Huda Mahmmmed Janahi:

A 41 years old housewife, graduated from the UNIDO-ARCEIT Entrepreneurship Development in 2001.

She is the first Bahraini woman in the kingdom to get a commercial registration to open a Cargo Company

In April 2005, she was awarded the Mohammed Bin Rashid Award for Young Business Leaders, for the Best Arab Start-up Business (female) for the year 2005.

Bahraini women in Business (con't)

Mrs. Huda Mahmmmed Janahi:

On 14th February, 2006, the MENA- OECD investor awarded Ms. Janahi for “**Young innovative Entrepreneur for the year 2006**”.

In 2007 she was awarded by Her Highness Shaikha Sabika Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa.

In 2008 She won global recognition from the UN for being a role model for Arab women entrepreneurs.

Bahraini women in Business (con't)

Mrs. Huda Mahmmmed Janahi:

Today Ms. Janahi owns and managing nine business enterprises worth around 2 million dollars. Leading one of the biggest cargo and travel services in Bahrain with 28 professional and field staff and managing eight other new companies in the region.



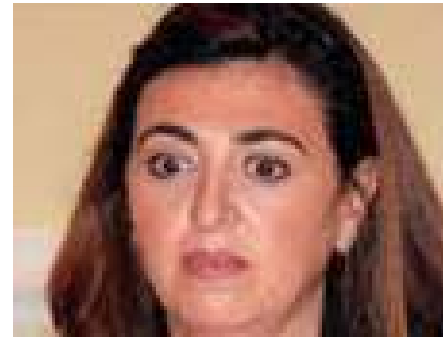
Bahraini women in Business (con't)

Mrs. Huda Nono:

Present member of Shura

Mother of two children

43 years old



A business woman and head of the Bahrain Human Rights Watch

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The King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa issued a royal decree appointing a female Jewish Mrs. Nono to be ambassador of Bahrain in Washington DC at United State.

Conclusion

Success stories inspire and encourage us. They plant seeds of exciting new ideas. Success usually results from a combination of inspiration, hard work, timing and luck.

Women should be given job opportunities as her male partner in order to enhanced the economical growth.

Bahraini women is currently viewed as a model for Arab states.

Conclusion

The launching of the democratic reform has encouraged the establishment of many more women's societies contributing to the creation of a civil society qualified to play a leading role in enhancing women's awareness and development.

We have achieved a lot throughout the years, but still looking forwards for further achievements.

THANK YOU

