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**Preface:**

This is the second Shadow Report prepared by civil society organizations in Yemen on the implementation level of Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW. First report was submitted to CEDAW Commission at United Nations in August 2002.

The Second report comes following four years of the 1<sup>st</sup> Report in accordance to the procedures followed and required. The Report elaborates on a number of issues that CEDAW Commission has outlined in the 1<sup>st</sup> Official Report for 2002 and that Yemeni government has discussed with the Commission. The Shadow Report further demonstrates instances of discrimination against women in Yemen at the legislations, policies, procedures and practices levels that impact women personally and at public level. Such discriminations deprive women from enjoying their full citizenship rights and equal rights according to the international human rights standards as stipulated for in a number of obligatory conventions that Yemen government is signatory party, and particularly CEDAW which Yemen has ratified in 30 May 1984, thereby, Yemen is mandated to achieve gender equality as with respect to, practicing and enjoying human rights and minimize gender gap resulted from numerous social, cultural, economic and legal factors and reasons. However, preparing accurate reports remains a chronic problem in Yemen, due to lack of accurate updated or even outdated statistics and uneasy access to such statistics, if any.

Noting these challenges the team assigned for preparing the report exerted enormous efforts in collecting data, information and in comparing them with the contradicting information in order to provide an objective and transparent report that can reflect clear image to officials and concerned parties. The report did not address all issues, noting that the sixth National Report prepared by Women National Committee has tackled a number of problems and demonstrated numerous data, thereby we avoided to be repetitive, rather we elaborated on issues that the National Report has failed to mention or when inaccurate or insufficient analysis has been presented.

Last, but not least we would like to express our sincere appreciation to United Nations Development Programme, and particularly to Dr. Al Obeid Ahmed Al Obeid, CTA on Human Rights for his encourage, support and close follow-up to the report preparation. Also on behalf of Sisters' Arab Forum I would like to express my gratitude to NGOs that have contributed to the report and to the Drafting Committee chaired by Ms. Rana Ghanem, Project Coordinator, who exerted tremendous efforts to accomplish it in such form despite the contradicted and outdated data.

Amal Basha, Chairwoman, SAF

## Executive Summary

There are a lot of discriminatory provisions in the Yemeni legislations which do not equalize between women and men, such as the Penal Code, Citizenship Law, Evidence Law, Personal Status Law, and Labor Law. In addition, most laws do not have bylaws and there is a huge gap between the law and the implementation of the law which result ripping off the rights of women guaranteed in the law. Women prisoners suffer from a deteriorating conditions.

Illiteracy rate is high among women. Educational policies do not encourage women to complete their education. They actually contribute in girls dropouts. The abyss between males and females is tremendous in all levels and education fields. Curricula despite change still devote stereotypes for women .

Women participation in athletics is very weak, marginal and has no social acceptance. There is only one women union for all sorts of sports in which women started to participate in comparison to 26 unions for men.

As for the political participation of women, it is very low. Women rate 0.33% in the parliament, and 0.08% in Local Councils. Their representation in the executive, judiciary and political parties is very low as well. There are no positive discriminatory procedures for women like adopting a quota, closed constituency or others.

All forms of violence poses a major problem that different women in Yemen suffer from. There is no law incriminating domestic violence, street violence, work violence...etc. Besides, recently a number of a quasi official newspapers are defaming civil society women activists which negatively affects women's encouragement to participate in public life.

The health sector in general is still poor. The budget for medical care represents only 4% of the total budget. Women's mortality and fertility rates are the highest in the world. They can not make decisions related to their health without the consent of the Husband, like going under a cesarean section or use birth control.

There is still a huge gap between males and females involvement in public life in favor of males. Women work in agriculture in rural areas is unpaid and not reflected in the national income. The high-rated corruption in all the official sectors and establishments doubles the difficulty of women involvement in the public life.

The marginalized women ( Akhdam) suffer from doubled violence and exclusion in all social, economical, political, and cultural fields resulting from their marginalizing class, and absence of serious and successful policies and programs to contribute to social incorporation of this social group.

**Background:**

Yemen lays in the far southern corner of the Arab Peninsula with 555 thousand square kilometer<sup>1</sup> of space. Yemen topography varies from plain, to coast, mountains and desert areas.

Yemen is Islamic Arab country member to the Arab League and Islamic Conference Organization. According to UN, Yemen is among least-developed countries and countries with lowest human development compared to other Arab countries – except Somalia, according to UN Human Development Report of 2005, where Yemen occupies 151<sup>st</sup> rank out of 177.

Illiteracy rate is high among population where it reaches at certain areas, to 67 percent among women. Yemen population is 21 million people according to 2004 census, half of them are women, with ethnic minority known as (*Akhdam*) which is considered the most deprived and marginalized ethnic, in addition to a few hundreds of Jews. Population growth rate is 3.02 percent, and 74 percent of population inhabits the rural areas. There are two major religious sects in Yemen; Sunni and Shiite, however their rates are not clearly identified, where there is no such indicator in the population census report.

Yemeni economics has fragile structure and depends on agriculture and transformational industry. 75 to 80 percent of the state budget depends on oil revenues which is likely to deplete by the year 2009.

Yemen is considered as one of the emerging democracies. Yemeni Constitutions provides for political multiparty system, peaceful transition of power, and separation of powers. Presidential, parliamentary and local councils' elections are held regularly. National legislations allows for the formation of political parties and publication of private newspapers. Freedom of expression is the major feature of political life, yet attempts are exerted to harass partisan and independent press and journalists who endeavor to raise the freedom ceiling, by manipulating judiciary which is plagued with corruption. Corruption also prevails in government institutions, due to nonexistence of efficient monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

Yemeni women are highly underrepresented in the economics and politics, although they represent half of population and are the major working power in the uncounted economics and nearly half of voters. Tribal culture system in the community is the major reason responsible for marginalizing women, and for discrimination and violence against women.

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<sup>1</sup> The space indicated is prior to border agreements with Saudi Arabia and Oman, however it has not been updated officially yet.

This report attempts to demonstrate gender gap between males and females in light of CEDAW and the Sixth National Report which is to be presented to the UN CEDAW Commission in May 2008, and to reflect women's state of affair at the cultural, social and legislative aspects.

## **First: Legislations and Laws**

### **The Constitution:**

Replacing article (27) of 1990 Constitution, which states that "*all citizens are equal before law and are equal in rights and duties, and no discrimination based on race, color, origin, language, profession, social status or creed*", with article (41) of amended Constitution of 1994, to state that "*all citizens are equal in rights and public duties*" is an obvious prove of deterioration from stressing on equality and nondiscrimination based on race, ethnic or social status. Such stress could not be affirmed by article (31) of the Constitution which provide for "*women are sisters of men; they shall have the rights and bestowed with duties as granted by the Islamic Shariaa and stipulated by laws*". Such change reflects the reversal in the political power structure in the Yemeni community and demonstrates domination of the traditional powers (religious and tribal) over the legislative authority and over decision-making institutions.<sup>2</sup> This is further seen in the deterioration in the Personal Status Law (and in other Yemen laws) which are based on extremists' interpretation of religion and reserved tribal perception, ignoring CEDAW which Yemen has already ratified, under the pretext that Yemeni community is Muslim community and no way to overlap Shariaa when enacting laws, and at the same time ignoring other enlightened interpretation of Islamic teachings that could be referred to, to attain equality taking in consideration the social progress and to achieve justice values that Islam has called for.

### **Major Discriminatory texts in Yemeni laws:**

#### **1. Crimes and Penal Code No. (12) of 1994:**

- Article (42) of the Law has stipulated that woman blood money is half of man's; and women and men *Aroush*<sup>3</sup> are equal until *Aroush* value reaches one third of man's blood money, thereafter it declines to be half of man's blood money. No doubt this article clearly contradicts CEDAW articles (2, 5 and 15). Women National Committee has proposed, in cooperation with NGOs an amendment to this article to the Cabinet, however no action has been taken, despite amendment made to provision related to the value of blood money. Many of Shariaa scholars (Ulama) sees that specifying of *Aroush* and blood many is subject to *Igtihad* (interpretation of Islamic teachings) and basically, blood money should be equal for both men and women.

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<sup>2</sup> see Honor Crimes in Yemen, Dr. Adel Al Shargabi, SAF 2005, and pages 21, 22.

<sup>3</sup> *Aroush* is financial compensation in lieu of physical damages.

- Article (232): mitigated penalty on man who kills his wife or any of his wives and her partner in adultery instance. This article clearly contradicts the Shariaa itself, which requires man to prove the case (by 4 witnesses) which is not easy to prove, otherwise to practice *Lia'an* rituals (*the husband is required in such practice to swear on Allah 4 times that he is telling the truth and on fifth time he calls upon Allah curse on him if he is telling lies*), wife also follow the same practice and on fifth time she calls upon Allah wrath on her if she is telling lies. Following such rituals wife and husband are getting separated by judge<sup>4</sup>, and punishment is one year imprisonment or fine.

Women National Committee has proposed additional text to the Law to mitigate penalty on woman who kills her husband when caught (*with his trousers down!*) like the case with men, although both original article and proposed amendment contradicts Islamic Shariaa. Also it is nearly impossible to prove adultery crimes, and no one has the right to bypass Islamic teachings in this respect. thereby such article should be invalidated. Islam has made it difficult to prove intentionally; i.e. to preserve honor.

- Article (273): this article identified shameful act as “*any act that violates public discipline or public decency, such as nudity or expose of loins*” article (275) penalize such act perpetuated by couples, male and female, with imprisonment not more that a year, or with fine. Article (273) did not identify public discipline and public decency that should not be violated; thereby it is left for each party’s interpretations and according to each region’s customs and traditions. So what is considered shameful act in certain area could not be considered so in others. There are many incidents of detention and trial of women for unjustified reasons, due to the fact that women were looked upon as inferior being. Where some women were detained for allegedly been in “unlawful privacy” with men who are not their family’s member.

It has been revealed in OXFAM GB program “Legal Protection”<sup>5</sup> implemented by Women National Committee, which defends women in prison that many women who get married without their father’s consent or acknowledgment or who escape to get married with men of their wish, due to their parents’ refusal, have been charged with adultery crimes or for perpetuating shameful acts. The rates of cases of such type as revealed by the Program are: 80 percent out of 100 cases in Taiz governorate, 80 percent out of 270 in Aden governorate, and 40 percent out of 120 in Hodiedah governorate. The same applies in Hadramout, Abyan and Ibb governorates. Thus, article (273) should be amended to clearly identify shameful act to avoid wrong interpretation.

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<sup>4</sup> The Holy Quran, surat Al Nour verses 6, 7, 8, 9 .

<sup>5</sup> Legal Protection and Advocacy Program, OXFAM GB.

## **2. Personal Status Law No. (20) of 1992:**

- article (15) of the Law prohibited minor male or female marriage. However this article has been amended in Law No. (24) of 1999, which legalized minor female marriage - below 15 years of age - when concluded by her guardian. This also contradicts with the State guidelines, article (16) of CEDAW, and Child Rights Convention. Such legal text has negative consequences on young females and on the society, thereby it should be invalidated and replaced with another article that prohibits marriage of females and males below 18 years of age, except at a very rare instances and by the court. Any violation to the proposed article should be incriminated.

- article (12): provided for “*polygamy is allowable till 4 wives, when competence to achieve justice is proved, otherwise only one wife, and when husband proved his ability to sustain more than one wife. However he has to notify his previous wife*”. This article also violates wife’s right to protest second marriage through the judiciary, also no mechanism is provided for courts to verify accomplishment of previous marriage conditions. Most husbands get married without referring to courts in order to enable the wronged party to complain. Despite the claim that polygamy is allowed by Shariaa, there is no supervision when practicing this right. Also polygamy is allowed by Shariaa as an exception and a need within historical context which has not been taken in consideration.

- the Law has considered women as incompetent being, by depriving her from the right of concluding marriage contract without any party’s guardianship, as seen in articles (7, 16). Law has provided for one of woman’s male relatives to conclude marriage contract. This also contradicts article (16) of CEDAW. Thereby this shall be amended to provide for woman to conclude her marriage contract on her own. Although the Law has required both woman and man’s consent to conclude the marriage, yet it did not state that woman’s consent shall be secured when concluding the marriage. It has become habitual that woman’s guardian; who could be her father, grandfather, uncle, or brother or any of her kin, conclude marriage contract without her presence to secure her consent, or even without her knowledge sometimes. Therefore, amendment should be made to secure woman’s consent when concluding marriage contract, and no contract should be concluded without woman’s presence and consent. Also law must incriminate and penalize any man who concludes marriage contract without clear consent of his wife, and any one who assists in concluding the contract.

## **3. Citizenship Law No. (6) of 1990:**

Article (3) of this Law has deprived children of Yemeni women to foreign father from their mother’s citizenship, unlike Yemeni men who are married to a foreign wife.

Notwithstanding addition of article (10) which imposes discriminatory conditions on the right of Yemeni women children to obtain their mother's citizenship, such as father's death, insanity, or separation as preconditions to obtain Yemeni citizenship.

#### **4. Labor Law No. (5) of 1995, and Civil Service Law No. (19) of 1991:**

Both Laws have provided women with the right of work and occupation of public post same as men. However article (59) of Civil Service Law has provided women with 60 days of maternity leave, which is not sufficient according to specialists, where infants need more care during their first days, thereby needs mothers for longer period. Thus, maternity leave must be increased and granted to husband as well. Article (45) of Labor Law, has obliged institutions/corporations with more than 50 female staff to provide kindergarten facilities, so did article (106) of Child Rights Law, but for institutions/corporations with 20 female staff, in order to encourage women labor. Despite the blatant contradictions in figures in the mentioned Laws, no kindergarten exists in any of the public institutions or private companies.

#### **5. Child Right Law No. (45) of 2002, and No. (20) of 2004:**

- this Law did not address issues of children with unknown fathers. Birth certificates were not provided for such children either when born or later.
- children prostitution, beggary and trafficking crimes are still at large and are increasing with very modest efforts to tackle them, due to nonexistence of clear legal provisions, particularly when parents are perpetuator, partner or provoker in such crimes. Also lack of evidences help perpetrators to escape penalty. Children, especially females, are reluctant to confess at such crimes, particularly when committed by relatives. However, Ministry of Social Affairs has drafted a law on child trafficking and supposed to be submitted to the Parliament for enactment.

#### **Law and Enforcement:**

- a number of discriminatory practices that violates valid laws are still practiced, such as inability of women to obtain personal identity cards or passports without their guardian (father, husband or brother.. etc) consent. They might be banned from traveling abroad due to guardian's refusal.
- also two male witnesses are required to prove that the applicant for identity card is Yemeni, testimony of two females is not accepted, either two males or male and two females. Also Yemeni citizens to foreign mothers (the so called *Mualladen*) are suffering extraordinary measures when claiming identity cards.

- many women were deprived from their inheritance, particularly in rural areas, although clearly granted by Shariaa. Sometimes they were not allowed to get married from others than their relatives, to keep inherited properties within their families, yet there are no policies in place to enable women obtain their legitimate inheritance.

- it is quite difficult for women to resort to judiciary. Where the dominant culture in Yemeni community is that police stations and courts are not places for “respected women”, and such places are normally crowded with men where women are faced with harassments and abuses. Also little number of female judges, and females in prosecutors and courts discourage women from resorting to judiciary. Women are normally delegate their male relatives when they have to go to court, otherwise they should be strong and courageous enough when needed resort to judiciary.

- Although Law No. (26) of 2003 on Organizing Prisons and article (27) therein, has stipulated for caring for imprisoned pregnant women, nevertheless state of prisons in Yemen is generally miserable. Women’s agony is multiplied due to such conditions and to social rejection they face from their own relatives for being imprisoned; they are looked upon as a source of shame and stigma to their family. Findings of the filed visit report conducted by Public Freedoms Committee in the Parliament, to central prisons and detention facilities in Taiz, Hodiedah, Hajah and some districts, has revealed that:

- women prisons conditions are not better than men’s, where they lack foodstuff, medicines and health care. Also prisoners are not classified according to crimes.
- Nonexistence of policewomen to guard women’s prisons, except in Hajah.
- Nonexistence of policewomen to interrogate suspected women.
- Women prisons are supervised and administered by Central Prisons Department.
- Nonexistence of health care units for imprisoned pregnant women, either prior or after delivery.
- A number of children were imprisoned with their mothers.
- A number of imprisoned women in Taiz and Hodiedah prisons overstay although they completed their sentences, whereas their families refused to receive them.
- Several women overstayed in Taiz prison although they completed their sentence, due to their inability to pay blood money they have been convicted with.
- Women’s prison in Bajil district is in one room in a private house and administered by the landlady. However it is unknown how impoverished women are sustained and protected<sup>6</sup>.

Reports of Legal Protection and Advocacy Program 2004-2006 by OXFAM GB- implemented by Women National Committee- in Taiz, Ibb, Aden, Abyan, Hadrmout and Hodiedah governorates has revealed that “number of imprisoned women varies in Aden, Taiz, and Hadrmout prisons between 125 to 156, 90 percent of them are accused with

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<sup>6</sup> Public Freedoms Report, the Parliament, 1 March 2004, page 13.

prostitution, adultery, alcohol and unlawful privacy “being alone with a man in: a house, a hotel, nightclub, isolated area or a cab”, or with indecent behavior, such as indecently dressed, or behaving in seductive way in public places. Others were charged with homicide, robbery and smuggling. 80 percent of the accused women are from the *Akhdam* ethnic, 99 percent are from rural background, and 15 percent from the 15 to 18 years age group. In Taiz, 3 percent of the imprisoned women are Ethiopian and Eritrean entered Yemen illegally, and some of them are considered refugees. Legal Protection provides legal services and psychological and social consultations, however a health service is very poor in all prisons, women are rarely provided with health care especially during pregnancy and delivery. Children of imprisoned women lack any social services, such as medical care, education or entertainment.. etc. according to complain filed by ten imprisoned women in Taiz central prison<sup>7</sup>, food quality is bad and uncooked, and sometimes is served with insects and sands. Furthermore they are harassed by male guards who threaten to beat them and enter their cells at late hours of nights to scare and humiliate them.

### **Recommendations:**

1. amend legislations and laws to ensure equal gender rights, particularly Personal Status Law, Penal Code, and Citizenship Law, to reflect progressive perspective of religion and objectives of Islamic Shariaa, where Islam is major source of legislations according to the Constitution.
2. legislation must include remedies to address children with unknown fathers’ problem, incest cases, children trafficking and prostitution crimes.
3. incriminate illegal practices and treat women and men according to equal citizenship principle.
4. disseminate public awareness through media outlets on women’s rights, change the stereotyped image of women, particularly in rural areas and enable them to complain when their rights are violated.
5. reform courts systems, police stations and prosecutors offices. Encourage and facilitate complain procedures for women.
6. train policewomen to supervise women prisons (women sections) and allocate detention facilities for women who are under investigation, to avoid sending them to women prisons prior to their conviction.
7. provision of children care supplies for children accompanying their imprisoned mothers, including food and medical supplies and education facilities. Provision of kindergarten for infants born in prisons.
8. establish shelter houses for women who completed their sentence in prisons. Particularly those are rejected by the relatives. Involve them in rehabilitation programs to reintegrate them in the community.

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<sup>7</sup> a complaint filed to a female lawyer in the Legal Protection and Advocacy Program, OXFAM GB.

9. improve prisons conditions, particularly women prisons. Provision of health, psychological and social care for women in prison.
10. ratifying Optional Protocol of CEDAW, noting that Yemen has no reservation on CEDAW.
11. ratifying Optional Protocol of Torture Convention and Rome System on the International Criminal Court.

## Second: Education

Although Yemeni government considers education as the cornerstone for development, girls education as one of MDG goals, and despite foodstuff ration provided by WFP to encourage impoverished households to educate their girls, and adoption of several strategies to advance with education; such as Basic Education Strategy, education situation is not progressing compared to the past four years, considering population growth. Illiteracy rate is still high among women, so is dropouts among girls in urban areas and even higher in rural areas, and among marginalized women, where it reaches to 95% according to concerned NGOs estimations. The following table demonstrates the wide gap between females and males education according to 2004 census:<sup>8</sup>

grade	Males		Females	
	Quantity	Rate	Quantity	Rate
Basic Education	203790912	61.3%	1505529	38.7%
Secondary Education	403724	69.7%	175372	30.3%
Vocational Education	6039	99.6%	27	0.4%
Technical Education	2632	86%	426	14%
University Education	127167	73.4%	46080	26.6%
Total	2919474		1727434	

Although Yemeni Constitution and pertaining laws have provided for compulsory and free education, nevertheless there are no monitoring mechanisms to monitor parents' commitment to educate their children. Furthermore, there are no deterrent penalties imposed on parents who deprive their children from education. Also education is totally free. Minister of Education has issued a resolution on 2006, prior to presidential and local councils' elections, to exempt male student from school fess until grad three, and female students until grade six. However, poor households are unable to sustain other requirements such as school uniforms and stationeries. Thereby they force their children to labor market instead of enrolling them in schools to secure household needs. According to Poverty Survey of 1999, number of children in labor market is estimated at 700 thousand male and female children, 90 percent of them in rural area, only 5.39 percent of them are enrolled in schools, and 24 percent are females<sup>9</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> Year Book of Statistics, Central Bureau of Statistics, Sana'a 2005.

<sup>9</sup> Al Insan magazine, 7 Nov. 2006 issue.

Another study has attributed the low rate of enrollment and high rate of dropouts among female students in basic education in 4 governorates to the following reasons: 40 percent due to early marriage, 95 percent less aware of the significance of education, and 59 percent fear of coeducation<sup>10</sup>.

### **Dropouts and Failure:**

“in 2004-2005 the rate of total number of male students enrolled in basic education among 6 to 14 years age group reached 80.99 percent, and female student 60.06 percent. Rate of total number of male students enrolled in secondary education among 15 to 17 years age group reached 33.24 percent, and female student 16.68 percent. Thereby, about 40 percent of females among 6-14 years age group are not enrolled in basic education, and more than 80 percent of females among 15-17 years age group are not enrolled in secondary education. Rate of dropouts and failure for the same year reached 26.4 percent out of the total number of students sitting for final exams at basic education, and 27.3 percent out of total number of students sitting for secondary education exams, apart from the low rate of those who passed the exams. Average schooling years for male students in basic education is 14.8 years, i.e. 5.8 years more than the normal years and for males 16.6 years, i.e. 7.8 years more. Low rate of females in secondary education justifies their low schooling years compared to males, where average schooling years for males is 4.4 years, i.e. 1.4 years more, compared to 4 years for females, i.e. 1 year more<sup>11</sup>.

### **Literacy Programs:**

Rate of illiteracy represents 70 percent of total population. Government policies have failed to reduce this high rate, also literacy programs are below standard, as the following table on number of females enrolled in literacy programs indicates<sup>12</sup>:

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Urban Areas</b>	<b>Rural Areas</b>
10 – 14	2985	3409
15 – 19	5032	6504
20 – 24	4293	6543
25 – 29	3456	4515
30 – 34	2058	2478
35 – 39	864	1394
40 – more	612	647
<b>Total</b>	<b>19300</b>	<b>25490</b>

<sup>10</sup> Low Rate of Enrolment and High Rate of Dropouts among Female Students in Basic Education, (Ibb, Haja, Mareb, Abyan), Yemeni Center for Social Studies and Labor Researches, Dec. 2005.

<sup>11</sup> Education Indicators in Yemen 2004-2005, Supreme Council for Education Planning, General Secretariat, pages 23, 24, 26, 27, 28.

<sup>12</sup> Periodical Education Survey, Ministry of Education, Sana'a 2004.

The above table demonstrates that number of enrolled females' decreases at high age groups, i.e. dropouts also occurs in literacy programs. This could be attributed to the inappropriate approaches followed to teach aged groups in literacy programs, implementing of traditional means, lack of training for teachers, lack of incentives for aged to join in literacy programs.

### **Education Channel:**

Although there is fully equipped and staffed satellite education channel, it is not functioning yet. Only few programs are broadcast through Sana'a and Aden channel. The education channel was expected play greater role in dissemination awareness on education, cover schools inefficiency and reduce illiteracy.

### **Teaching Staff:**

Number of female teachers in formal, vocational, and health education is few compared to males, noting that women working in education field are socially accepted. The following table demonstrates numbers of male and female teachers according to 2004 statistics<sup>13</sup>:

<b>Education</b>	<b>Teachers</b>	
	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
<b>Basic Education</b>	136547	37721
Vocational Education	735	66
Health Education	347	148

The situation is not quite different in university education, while female students are much less than males, also female teaching staff is far below males. The following table demonstrates rates and numbers of teaching staff according to their profession titles in the governments' universities during 2004-2005<sup>14</sup>:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
Professor	152 (97.4%)	4 (2.6%)
Associate Professor	363 (94.8%)	20 (5.2%)
Assistant Professor	1501 (88.6%)	194 (11.4%)
Lecturer	579 (82.1%)	126 (17.9)
Tutor	1125 (73.5%)	405 (5.26%)

<sup>13</sup> Year Book of Statistics, previous source.

<sup>14</sup> Yemeni Teaching Staff in Governments' Universities 2004-2005, Supreme Council for Education Planning, page 14.

### Scholarship:

Rate of female students studying abroad under scholarships is not better than their rate at universities inside the country. The following table demonstrates numbers of males and females granted scholarships by the Ministry of Higher Education till December 2005<sup>15</sup>:

Education Level	Males	Females
Medium Diploma	116	4
Bachelor	3420	343
Master	852	110
Ph. D.	395	28

### Curricula:

The curricula normally adopt dominating masculine discourse at all levels. It further deepens the traditional stereotyped roles of women, either in the texts or accompanying illustrations, or by reaffirming the negative roles attached to gender. Such fact is proved by the analytical study on gender role conducted on the basic and secondary school curricula, as demonstrated in the following table<sup>16</sup>:

Value	Males	Females	Subtotal
Family Care	6 (11.32%)	47 (88.67%)	53 (3.36%)
Provision of Advice	19 (90.45%)	2 (9.52%)	21 (1.33%)
Learning	321 (88.67%)	41 (11.32%)	362 (22.99%)
Productivity	10 (100%)	-	10 (0.63%)
To be obedient to parents	35 (97.22%)	1 (2.77%)	36 (2.28)
Provision of Security to others	13 (100%)	-	13 (0.82%)
Leadership	216 (93.91%)	14 (6.08%)	230 (14.61%)
Resistance and Struggle	20 (100%)	-	20 (1.27%)
Skillful and Perfection	43 (95.55%)	2 (4.44%)	45 (2.85%)
Cleverness	35 (100%)	-	35 (2.22%)
Mercy and Kindness	5 (10.63%)	42 (89.36%)	47 (2.98%)
Justice	55 (100%)	-	55 (3.49%)
Heroism and Sacrifice	165 (95.93%)	7 (4.06%)	172 (10.92%)
Creativity	122 (99.78%)	1 (0.8%)	123 (7.81%)
Faith and Obedience	81 (94.18%)	5 (5.81%)	86 (5.46%)
Decency	27 (75%)	9 (25%)	36 (2.28%)
Loyalty at Work	16 (94.11%)	1 (5.88%)	17 (1.08%)
Scientific Contribution	166 (98.80%)	2 (1.19%)	168 (10.67)
Serving Others	18 (66.66%)	9 (33.33%)	27 (1.71%)

Modern curricula depends greatly on school activities and researches, thereby requires modern laboratories and libraries equipped with computers and access to internet to

<sup>15</sup> Education Indicators in Yemen 2004-2005, Supreme Council for Education Planning, General Secretariat, August 2006.

<sup>16</sup> Gender Roles in Basic and Secondary Education Curricula, Women Studies Center, Aden University, 2004, pages 45,55.

browse for information. However such facilities are not available even at major cities. However some schools are equipped with such facilities, but the high density of students make it difficult for most of them to benefit from such facilities. Thus we could safely say that the curricula are improved but its tools and means are still depending on traditional means.

Also gender discrimination is noticed in practicing extracurricular activities, where home economics, sewing, embroidery and limited sports are practiced at girls' schools, on the other hand sports are practiced at boys' schools, although it is considered as compulsory extracurricular activities, thereby deepening stereotyped roles. Beside the fact that other activities such as music, painting and arts are not practiced.

Yemeni government has adopted a number of strategies which were expected to raise girls enrollment at schools and reduce illiteracy and poverty, such as National Strategy on Literacy and Adults Education, Women Development Strategy 2003-2005, and Poverty Alleviation Strategy 2003-2005, however official data and figures confirms beyond doubts that such strategies have achieved modest results. Furthermore, no assessment process is conducted by the government to identify reasons of such failure. Currently the government is adopting new strategies, in fact some of them are extension to the previous ones, yet the major change in the new strategies is extending their timeframe, such as Poverty Alleviation Strategy 2001-2010, Women Development Strategy 2006-2015 and National Population Strategy 2001-2025, however state institutions, and implementing mechanisms remain the same old ones, which are predominated by corruption, inefficiency, and lack of accountability. Therefore, it is not a question of how many strategies are in place, it rather the question of efficiency and integrity of these institutions and mechanisms.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Implement free and compulsory education and incriminate violations therein.
2. Establish effective mechanisms to ensure births and deaths registration.
3. Reinforce women leading role at education facilities, by appointing qualified women at administrative and supervision posts.
4. Construct new schools in general and girls' schools in particular.
5. Encourage and motivate female teachers financially and morally to serve at rural areas.
6. Assess all education related strategies to identify loopholes that led to the previous strategies and plans failure to upgrade education quality, reduce illiteracy and dropouts.
7. Revise curricula, extracurricular activities, school management systems, guidance, teachers training, and literacy and adult education programs.

8. some female students are forced to concede scholarship granted under the social norms and traditions pressures, thereby we strongly recommend replacing their foreign scholarships with local ones to help them complete their higher education.

### **Third: Women Sports**

Although the regulations of sports associations have been amended to include one woman representative for women sports, yet they play marginal role. They did not occupy any senior posts, at least at sports that women are participating. None of sports associations have allocated funds to support women sports. At present there is only one women sports association against 28 men sports associations, and one sports club for women in Sana'a compared to 250 for men at different governorates. Also there is no sports hall for women, and women are not benefiting from sports assistance, such as the Japanese sports facilities provided in 2005. Although there are national sports tournament for women, yet they are not on periodical basis like men's tournaments, and organized normally during national events. Also women are excluded from participating in national or abroad sport training courses, unlike men. For instance women tennis team was deprived from participating in preparatory camp in China.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Pay more attention and allocate funds to advance women sports. Establish women clubs or allocate specific dates of week for women at men's clubs. Establish women sports' teams, rehabilitate and train them.
2. Increase Women Sports Association budget, to match men's budget.
3. Establish sports teams at girls' schools. Encourage women to practice sports, and organize women tournaments between governorates and girls schools.
4. Encourage women participation at sports tournaments abroad.
5. Train female sports teachers/coaches at all girls' schools.

### **Fourth: Political Participation**

Yemeni Constitution has provided for political rights for women on equal basis with men, article (24) indicates that "the state ensures equal political opportunities for all citizens". Article (41) states that "all citizens are equal in the rights and public duties". All relevant laws have provided for this right without discrimination. Elections Law No. (13) of 2001, article (3) states that "each citizen of 18 years of age shall have the right to vote". Political Parties and Organizations Law No. (66) of 1991 article (8) clause (4) provided that "no political party or organization shall be established on the basis of gender discrimination...etc". Local Authority Law has also confirmed that at many instances. All these legal provisions did not empower women to contribute and be represented in the political process, nether did it pave the way and remove the obstacles they face. This could be noticed in the following instances:

#### **1. Parliamentary Elections:**

The results of April 2003 parliamentary elections were disappointing at many levels: decreasing number of women candidates, political parties' reaction to women candidacy, and the number of winners among women. While the women voters' number has increased as the records shows. The following table elaborates further by comparing April 1993, April 1997 and April 2003 elections' results:

Elections	Rate of Women in the Voters' Record	Rate of Women Nominated in the Elections Compared to the total Number of Candidates	Rate of Women who won the Elections Compared to the Total Number of Winners
April 1993 Parliamentary Elections	18%	1.3%	0.66%
April 1997 Parliamentary Elections	29%	0.75%	0.66%
April 2003 Parliamentary Elections	42%	0.6%	0.33%

The above table demonstrates that only 2 female candidates won 1993 and 1997 elections, reduced to one woman in 2003 elections out of 301 seats.

## 2. Presidential Elections:

For the first time in Yemen history three women submitted their application to run the presidential elections in September 2006. the total number was 49 applicants. Elections Law provided that the applicants shall obtain the rate of 5% of the participants in the nomination session that consists of the 412 MPs and Shura Council members, including only 3 women (one female MPs and two members in Shura Council). All applying women failed to secure the required 5%. In fact one get 3 votes, the second get 1 vote and the last get zero votes. Only 5 applying men get the required 5%. Obviously only those are supported by their represented party in both houses gets the nomination, noting that 80% of both houses members are from the ruling party.

## 3. Local Councils Elections:

Women's share in September 2006 local councils election is not better than that in the previous elections in 2001, as demonstrated in the following table:

Local Councils Election	Rate of Women Registered in the Elections Record	Total number of Candidates	Number of Women Candidates and their Rate Compared to the Total Candidates	Number of Women who won the Elections and their Rate Compared to the total

				Number of Winners
2001 Elections	30%	23892	120 (0.05%)	38 (0.57%)
2006 Elections	46%	20264	147 (73%)	38 (0.08%)

Despite all efforts exerted by governmental organizational such as Women National Committee, and NGOs such as SAF and WATAN Coalition to lobby among political parties to allocate women quotas in their candidacy list for local councils elections, also a number of civil society organizations, such as SAF, Mada, Yemeni Women Federation, Arab Foundation to Support Women and Child Issues have implemented training programs for women candidates. Although major political parties have promised to support women nomination in elections, however during elections time these parties including Peoples General Congress, the ruling party, did not honor their promises. Although PGC party has promised to allocate 20 percent of his nomination list to women, then reduced to 15 percent, ended up with nominating 35 women only, i.e. 0.6 percent of the total list of nominees, all of them won the councils elections. While Islah party, the major party in opposition did not nominate any woman, other opposition parties nominated few numbers of women, only one from the Yemeni Social Party made it to the local councils. Only three independent women who represented two third of the candidates, won the local councils elections. This clearly proves that the ruling party, i.e. PGC remains the major influential power that has the capacity and decision to raise women representation in the elected and appointed bodies and it the party accountable for implementing CEDAW.

#### **4. Appointed Councils:**

Although women under representation in the elected councils is allegedly attributed to the lack of awareness in the community, norms and traditions, and domination of masculine culture, and despite the fact that the executive power confirms its support to active women political participation, however the state of facts does not support this allegation. Where in the Shura Council only two women were appointed out of 111 members, and two women ministers of the Ministries of Human Rights and Social Affairs and Labor out of 35 minister, one ambassador out of 57, and no women judge has been appointed since unification in 1990, noting that there are 32 women judges from the southern part of Yemen among 1200 men judges, those female judges are either reassigned in new jobs or left unemployed. For the first time one woman judge has been appointed in the Constitutional Court in September 2006, and 5 female students were admitted to the High Institute of Judges for the first time since its foundation in 1986 following repeated requests and efforts by feminism organizations.

#### **5. Yemeni Political Parties:**

The political parties' bylaws, political and elections programs in Yemen repeatedly stress on the importance of women participation, they further call to support women and

states that women have the full membership rights and duties, however in reality women are clearly separated in independent sectors and premises in most of the political parties, and women represent 2 percent of the leading posts in the following parties:

- People General Congress who received more than 60 percent of women votes in April 2003 elections, and who announced allocation of 30 percent of his senior posts to women in his 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 15 December 2005, has appointed only three women at the lower and medium level of the leading posts, one is in-charge Women Sector, thereby no women has been appointed in any leading post, also the allocated 30 percent was not implemented at higher levels of leadership (the local and high Permanent Committee, the General Secretariat and the General Committee).
- Yemeni Congregation for Islah, who received about 25 percent of women votes in 2003 parliamentary elections did not nominate a single woman. However it is noted there is internal movement in the party against the paradigm that women are incompetent for leading posts. Also 13 women have been elected in the Shoura Council of the party (the Central Committee) out of 130 members, and women member of the General Secretariat, who is in-charge of Women Sector.
- Yemeni Social Party is the most progressive and pro-women party, however their support to women is still limited. The Party attributed that to his limited resources and claims his support to women when the party was ruling in southern Yemen before unity. However women represent more than 11 percent of the Central Committee of the party i.e. 38 women, and 3 women in the General Secretariat and the Politburo, although the party provide for 30 percent quota in its bylaw.
- The Unitarian Popular Nasserite Part (nationalist party), women represent more than 10 percent of the Central Committee that consists of 75 members, among them 8 women and one women in the General Secretariat out of 15 members, who is in-charge of Women Sector.

### **Recommendations:**

1. quota system of 30 percent must be adopted in the posts, elected and appointed councils, executive posts such as deputy ministers, director of sections, councils, cultural attachés and in the Parliament and Shoura Council secretariats.
2. amend the Constitution to allow for Elections Law amendment in order to allow for relative nomination list, and Parties Law to facilitate for quota system for women in elections and at all leading posts at political parties with not less than 30 percent according to Yemen commitment for international community.
3. invalidate the 5 percent condition for women contesting presidential elections, and signatures of 300 persons form the constituency for women contesting parliamentary elections.

4. raise public awareness on the importance of women participation in public life, and adopt a media and religious discourse that can alter the negative position towards women participation in the political process.

### **Violence:**

There is no law in place to protect Yemeni women from violence that they suffer all its forms and sources. Types of violence that Yemen women suffer:

### **Domestic Violence:**

The most prominent feature of such form of violence, particularly for rural women, illiterate wives and housewives, is depriving women from participation in the family decision-making process, from the right of delivery, number of babies to be delivered and intervals between births. Women are also suffering from arbitrary divorce, deprived from the right of divorce unless through *Khul'u*<sup>17</sup>, provided that the wife present solid justification that can convince the judge. Wives are forced to live with each other in devastating living conditions, and divorced are deprived from living in their houses. Working women is also burdened with the housework without assistance from their husbands<sup>18</sup>.

All forms of domestic violence are either approved or ignored by law (Personal Status Law), particularly that forms approved by societal traditions and in the context of husband obedience, and prevention from leaving house without husband's permission and for legitimate reasons only. Furthermore housewives are subject to physical violence. Certain studies have indicated that women accept some forms of violence perpetuated on them and they refer it to religious teachings<sup>19</sup>. Domestic violence in cases related to honor is concealed phenomenon in Yemen. Normally such cases are handled within family circles, and what reaches police records is very minimal, Yemeni families tend to solve these problems amicably through tribal norms outside police stations if parties to the problem are not relatives. If they are relatives they prefer no to report the case to the police<sup>20</sup>. It is noted that between 80 to 85 percent of cases where women are suspects are related to honor crimes, unlike cases where males are the suspects<sup>21</sup>.

Many crimes perpetuated against women and lead to homicide cases are not reported officially, they are considered natural deaths, particularly in rural areas, and no health certificate is required for burial. Annual Book of Statistic, published by Central Bureau of Statistics, Crimes and Judiciary section, used to provide detailed data on crimes either

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<sup>17</sup> (*type of divorce where women can claim divorce in lieu of financial compensation – normally the dowry she received - to be paid to the husband*).

<sup>18</sup> Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in Yemen 2005, Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights, page 96.

<sup>19</sup> Violence Against Women in Yemen, Dr. Adel Al Shargabi, Women National Committee 2003.

<sup>20</sup> Honor Crimes in Yemen, Dr. Adel Al Shargabi, Sister's Arab Forum, May 2005, page 31.

<sup>21</sup> Previous source, page 33.

perpetuated by or on women classified by age during nineties. However during past years provided data are limited to crimes perpetrated by or on juvenile females, no further details on crimes on or by adult females<sup>22</sup>.

### **Female Genital Mutilation:**

FGM is a common phenomenon in coastal areas of Yemen. Despite Minister of health resolution of 2001, to ban practicing FGM at public health facilities or by public health servant, and the limited awareness campaign by official institutions and NGOs, this phenomenon is still at large. it requires direct community based awareness campaigns through media and education facilities beside field awareness activities.

### **Street Violence:**

Most flagrant features of street violence is the verbal abuses, deliberate physical contacts, however physical violence, robbery and rape are very limited<sup>23</sup>. An official statistics by the Ministry of Interior, published by Al Balagh newspaper issue (722) of 27 March 2007, has stated that abduction crimes against females has reached (45) cases in 2006. this is a very serious indicator of violence against women. Noting that many families does not report their females' disappearance, fearing being stigmatized by the community, or being received by skepticism by police, under the pretext that their females escaped on their own and they were not abducted.

However an abduction attempt was perpetuated on 15 April 2006 on lawyer and journalist Ms. Nabela Al Hakimi, who writes critical articles. Yemeni NGO, HOOD wrote to the Minister of Interior to take action on this incident, Ms. Al Hakimi was interviewed by the ministry, and the vehicle used in the abduction attempt was identified as one of the Interior ministry's vehicles. Nevertheless the case was not referred to the prosecutor yet. Also marginalized females are facing all forms of street violence, including rape, due to the nature of their work which keeps them till late hours at night, as cleaners or when begging, also they lack shelter to accommodate the due to their deteriorated economic and social status.

### **Press Violence:**

New form of unfamiliar violence is prevailing in Yemeni community, where quasi official newspapers, such as Addastour, Al Bilad, and Akhbar Al Yum, publishes slander articles on female journalists or civil society activists, that defame their honor and provokes traditional sectors of the community against them (such violence is in fact practiced against many journalists and political opponents). Some of these incidents are slander article against Ms. Rashida Al Qaili, Ms. Samia Al Aghbari, Ms. Mahasin Al

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<sup>22</sup> Previous source, page 30.

<sup>23</sup> Violence Against Women, Dr. Adel Al Shargabi, Women National Committee, 2003.

Hawati, and Ms. Rahma Hugira and provocation against Ms. Amal Basha, the human rights activist.

**Accusation of Infidelity and Apostasy:** it a form of cultural violence that incites community against some activists and journalists and call for their execution. As the case with journalist Ms. Nagla Al Amri, and with human rights activists Ms. Amal Basha, where Akhbar Al Yum newspaper issued in 17 March 2007 quoted an official in Al Eman university who accuse her of infidelity and apostasy.

### **Illegal Detention:**

Women, like men, are subject to illegal detention by Criminal Investigation Department or similar security apparatus, as shown in the following instances:

- Ms. Anisa Al Shuaibi was detained near her house on 12 midnight along with her 6 years old son and 5 years old niece. They were detained at CID detention in Sana'a from 6 November 2003 till 25 January 2004. she was accused of murdering her ex-husband and released on bail. Ms. Al SHuaibi was not informed of her crime when she was detained, neither was she allowed contacting a lawyer or her relatives; she was totally isolated from the world. She alleged that she was tortured and humiliated and was detained in a filthy and cold prison. On 25 January 2005 the prosecutor announced that she was charged on unsubstantial ground, as there were no crime committed after confirming her ex-wife existence, and ordered her release<sup>24</sup>.
- Ms. Intisar Al Siani was arrested at night from her house on 4 May 2005, on the charges of participating in terrorist acts, and she was pregnant. Her relatives and lawyer were denied the knowledge or access to her whereabouts, or even informed with her charges. She remained in detention for 10 days and released after enormous lobbying by the civil society. Finally the court issued a verdict on November 2006 and sentenced her with the days she spent in prison.
- Ms. Basma Mohamed Salem Al Zagheer, arrested on 6 December 2004 on the charges of murdering her parents, using drugs and carrying unlicensed weapon. She was detained for two years, tortured and forced to confess with the charged crimes. Finally on 4 December 2006 the court found her innocent and invalidated her forced confession under torture. However she was convicted with carrying unlicensed weapon and charged with 6 months to be deducted from the two years she spent on jail, and released on bail<sup>25</sup>.

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<sup>24</sup> HOOD Organization, Ms. Anisa Al Shuaibi file.

<sup>25</sup> Al Nida Newspaper, issue 82, 6 December 2006.

- Ms. Hanan Al Wadee, writer and staff of Rada Barnen, Swedish NGO, was abducted by security personnel from the street in Sana'a and sent to the central jail, under the allegations that she entered Iran embassy in Sana'a. She was not interrogated nether referred to court, however she was released after two hours.

### **Violence at Workplace:**

Labor women at private and public sectors are subject to sexual harassment. So far there is no field study with statistics to identify extends of such crimes. However there are a number of sexual harassment cases documented by the Yemeni Society for Psychological Health in Aden. These cases were reported through the hotline in the Society. Labor women, housemates from Somali refugees or expatriates from Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Southeast Asia, are unwilling to file official complains or unveil their identity fearing of stigma, defamation or dismissal from their jobs in light of high unemployment.

### **Violence against women Candidates in Elections:**

Women who apply for election candidacy are subject to counter attacks, just for being women, most forms of violence are<sup>26</sup>:

- Slanders and defamation to their honor and dignity in order to push them and their families to withdraw their candidacy.
- Tearing their elections campaign posters and pictures, where some individuals at Yemeni community do not accept seeing females' pictures depicted on streets.
- One of the female candidates in parliamentary election in 2003, from Ibb governorate, constituency (115), has been threatened with faked marriage contract, to a person she never knew. She was forced to withdraw or being called by her so-called husband to house of obedience through the prosecution. Also a rumor was spread that she is illegally married to four husbands.
- Threaten to be dismissed or denied promotion at workplace.
- Propagating that they are nonbelievers, referring to the *Hadith* (sayings of prophet) that "no people will do good by making women their rulers", thereby negatively influence voters.
- Some social dignitaries pressured female candidates to withdraw during 2006 local council's elections to allow for ruling party male candidates to contest.
- Some female candidates face obstacles when organizing their election rallies.
- Dismissal from their job, as the case with candidate Ms. Afrah Al Salali, teacher at Al Thulaya school, in Al Tahrir district constituency (17) in Sana'a, during September 2006 local councils elections.

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<sup>26</sup> Women Experience in Elections, SAF, 2003, page 59. Women and Local Councils, SAF, 2005. SAF Report on Female Candidates (trained by SAF) during recent local councils' elections 2006.

### **Recommendations:**

1. enact law to incriminate violence against women in all its forms, particularly domestic violence.
2. amend Penal Code to articulate some vague texts and invalidate mitigation granted at honor crimes.
3. raise public awareness as with respect harmful practices such as FGM, through media and school curricula.
4. establish family courts, concerned with family issues.
5. conduct studies on sexual harassment at workplaces (corporations, factories, companies ..etc).
6. protect female candidates to elections and take serious measures against propaganda against women.
7. launch media campaign by state institutions and civil society to combat violence against women.

### **Sixth: Health**

Despite ambitious strategies and plans set by the state in health sector, such as Population Action Plan 2001-2005, with objectives of provision health care to 60 percent of pregnant women, increase attended births to 40 percent, and provision of post delivery care to 15 percent of women. Apparently it is quite difficult to achieve these goals, noting the deteriorating budget for health sector which represent 4% of the budget in 2003-2004. according to 1997 Demographic Survey, maternity mortality rate reached 365 case in every 100 thousand live delivery, during the last 6 years the situation has improved slightly as seen in the Family Health Survey of 2003 where maternity mortality reached 351 in every 100 thousand delivery, however some studies are skeptical about these indicators and sees that maternity mortality is double of the mentioned rate<sup>27</sup>.

One of reasons that prevent women from seeking safe delivery at hospitals; is the maltreatment that they face by female health workers, humiliation and indecent treatment, and lack of appropriate attention at such public health facilities.

Women are not allowed womb operation or removal or caesarian operation without husband's permission, even not use contraceptives or family planning means, further they can not get contraceptives unless they bring their husbands ID to prove his consent. Also 53 percent of Yemeni population suffers from malnutrition and this includes pregnant and fostering women. 40 percent are below poverty line, where people lives in

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<sup>27</sup> Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in Yemen 2005, Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights, page 151.

less than 2 dollars a day, no doubt such conditions have devastating impact on public health.

### **HIV/AIDS:**

HIV/AIDS patient faces severe discrimination not only by the community but also from health workers who refuses to medicate them, thereby it is unlikely that they reveal their illness and normally they go to private hospitals. Furthermore there is no accurate statistics on AIDS/HIV patients includes their numbers, ages, or sex. Since the first reported case of AIDS in Yemen on 1987 and until 2006 the number of registered AIDS cases at National AIDS Program is 821 cases, however concerned parties sees that the number is much higher, according to WHO criteria there are 10 hidden cases behind each registered one. Thereby number of AIDS patient could be more than 18 thousand. AIDS program is concerned that AIDS cases are likely to escalate, noting the influx of refugees from horn of Africa, and considering that about 45 percent of reported cases of HIV/AIDS are among foreigners<sup>28</sup>. Also wives can not protect themselves, where their husbands refuse to use condoms, if they suspect their husbands loyalty. Furthermore, no health insurance program is in place in Yemen; therefore many HIV/AIDS can not afford medication.

### **Recommendations:**

1. increase health budget and health facilities.
2. adopt health insurance program to enable people get medical care at public hospitals at reasonable costs.
3. enact laws on medical profession to make health workers accountable.
4. provide women with the right of reproductive health; easy access to contraceptives.
5. reconsider qualifications of health workers (doctors, nurses, pharmacist, laboratory technicians ..ect).
6. Organize public awareness campaigns on HIV/AIDS, transmission ways and preventive measures.
7. Raise capacities of public health female workers at reproductive health facilities and train them how to behave humanely.

### **Seventh: Labor**

Many studies have stipulated that gab poverty is widening in Yemen, and that women represent the vast majority of poor. Due to many reasons including, unpaid work of rural women, illiteracy, norms and traditions that stand against women work, and unemployment which engulfs 40 percent of Yemeni population.

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<sup>28</sup> AL Insan Magazine, 7 November 2006.

According to Transparency International report of 2005, Yemen occupies 106 ranks at the tail of the list as one of the most corrupted countries, where favoritism, bribery and manipulation of public posts are the most prominent features of corruption; therefore multiply violations on women right of employment or promotion. Integrity Report of 2006 also indicates that Yemen has secured “very weak” grade at all six indicators that includes; transparency, elections, civil society, media, administration civil services, monitoring, rule of law and combating poverty<sup>29</sup>.

Marginalized Women and Labor: marginalized women and expatriates housemates are suffering terrible working conditions at private and public sectors, namely:

- Female workers as cleaners does not have permanent contracts, thereby they do not have any rights or pensions.
- Working for additional hours and till late night, thereby face street violence, including sexual harassment that might lead to rape.
- Minor females work under serious health conditions; thereby jeopardize their already deteriorated health conditions.
- Tiny wages that can hardly meet their needs.

### **Recommendations:**

- Central Organization for Monitoring and Accountability must be affiliated to the Parliament, instead of Presidency.
- Publicly announcement for public posts, and appointment should be through committees, not individuals; also appointment criteria should be announced.
- Combating corruption in all state institutions and establishes monitoring and accountability bodies, and issue public reports.
- Set a restrict criteria for membership of the corruption combating bodies, including good reputation, integrity, competence and members shall have wide authorities.
- Reform judiciary and ensure its independence and competence. And ensure separation of powers.
- Reconsider wages and salaries to cope with living conditions.
- Encourage private sector to invest and open employment opportunities for youth and revitalize tourism by enforcing security and stability.
- Ban weapons trafficking and carrying.

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<sup>29</sup> International Integrity Indicator, National Integrity Organization, 2006.

### **General Recommendations on Marginalized Women (*Akhdam*):**

- Conduct field study to assess marginalized women conditions and collect data to determine their needs.
- Involve marginalized women in development; train them on handicrafts and profession to improve their economic situations.
- Legalize marginalized women, and refugees work as housemates, working conditions.
- Establish education literacy facilities at marginalized women gatherings to facilitate their social integration.
- Empower marginalized women economically through micro credit and grants programs.
- Organize awareness campaigns on early marriage, reproductive health and family planning among these groups.
- Enact law to protect refugees in accordance with Refugees Rights Convention, that Yemen has ratified.

## NGOs Participated in Preparing the Shadow Report

Serial	Name	Organization
01	Mr. Ahmed Arman	National Committee for Defending Rights, Freedoms and Democracy
02	Ms. Aamal Al Dubaee	Women Development and Combating Violence Center
03	Ms. Amal Bash Ms. Rana Ghanem Ms. Maha Awad Ms. Belquis Al Lahabi	Arab Sisters' Forum for Human Rights
04	Ms. Anmar Ali Mansour	Relief Center for Women, Aden
05	Mr. Basim Al Haj	Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights
06	Ms. Bushra Al Bahlouli	Teachers Union
07	Mr. Gamal Al Gubi	Political Development Forum
08	Ms. Rahma Hugira	Yemeni Female Journalists Forum
09	Ms. Zafran Al Muhana Ms. Fathia Thabit Nagi	Middle East Research Center for Human Development and Human Rights
10	Mr. Slam Al Shahri	Girls International Language Center – Young Capacities Development Organization
11	Ms. Suha Bashareen Ms. Wameedh Shakir Ms. IShraq Al Maktari	OXFFAM GB  Legal Protection and Advocacy Program
12	Ms. Sawsan Mohamed Garoun	Shema Network
13	Mr. Abdulbari Taher	Yemeni Writers Union
14	Ms. Abeer Raouih Mr. Waleed Abulhafeez Magid	Youth Center – Social and Democratic Forum
15	Ms. Afra Al Hariri	Arab Organization for Supporting Women and Juvenile Issues, Aden
16	Ms. Faiza Hasan	Female Journalists Without Constrains
17	Dr. Mohamed Abdulmalik Al Mutwakil	Yemeni Organization for Defending Democratic Rights and Freedoms
18	Mr. Mohamed AL Magrami	Education and Profession Union
19	Dr. Mohammed Al Mahyubi	Doctors and Pharmacist

		Union
20	Mr. Muaad Al Maktari	Youth Shoura Council
21	Mr. Nabeel Abdulhafeez Magid	Social Democratic Forum
22	Ms. Huda Al Hababi	Democratic School
23	Dr. Shafiq Saeed Abu	Activist
24	Dr. Adel Al Shargabi	Professor
25	Mr. Edi Al Munifi	Journalist
26	Ms. Fatima Abu Ali	Lawyer
27	Ms. Nabela Al Nufti	Lawyer
28	Ms. Nabela Saad Makram	Activist
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30	Mr. Abdulghani Aglan Al Sabri	Human rights and Political activist

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