

HUMAN RIGHTS

IN THE **MIDDLE EAST**



Produced by **StandWithUs**

MIDDLE EAST



Religious Intolerance In Arab Countries

DECLINING POPULATIONS

Jewish Population in Arab Countries

1948: 856,000

2015: 3,880

Christian Population in Arab Countries

1909: 20%

2015: 3%

Christian Population in West Bank and Gaza

1950: 15%

2016: 1%

RISING POPULATIONS

Christians in Israel

1949: 34,000

2015: 163,000

Muslims in Israel

1949: 111,500

2015: 1.4 million

Only one country
in the Middle East
fosters religious
freedom.

REGIONAL MAP



Religious Tolerance In Israel

As a Jewish and democratic state, Israel protects religious freedom for all and officially recognizes 15 different religions.

Political Rights

Government	Free and Fair Elections	Opposition Parties Legal
Egypt	Limited	YES
Iran	Very Limited	Very Limited
Jordan	Limited	Limited
Lebanon	Limited	Limited
Palestinians (Gaza)	NO	NO
Palestinians (West Bank)	Limited	Limited
Saudi Arabia	NO	NO
Sudan	NO	Very Limited
Syria	NO	NO
Israel	YES	YES



Political Rights

Government	Minority Participation	Freedom House Rating* Scale 1-7
Egypt	Limited	6
Iran	Very Limited	6
Jordan	Limited	6
Lebanon	Limited	5
Palestinians (Gaza)	NO	7
Palestinians (West Bank)	Limited	6
Saudi Arabia	Very Limited	7
Sudan	NO	7
Syria	Limited	7
Israel	YES	1

* Freedom House, founded in 1940, is a nonpartisan, broad-based, non-profit organization that monitors and evaluates democracy and freedom around the world. It ranks nations on a scale of 1 to 7.

1 is an open democratic society with fair and free political life.

6 is an autocratic regime with minimal political rights.

7 is an autocrat regime with severe oppression.

See the 2015 Freedom House "Freedom in the World" report at www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/freedom-world-2015

LGBTQ Rights

Government	Homosexuality Legal
Egypt	YES (But LGBTQ people are prosecuted under lewd conduct laws.)
Iran	NO (Gay men are put to death.)
Jordan	YES (But reports of honor killings and gay men seeking asylum elsewhere)
Lebanon	NO*
Palestinians (Gaza)	NO
Palestinians (West Bank)	YES (But no protection from hate crimes)
Saudi Arabia	NO (Gay men are put to death.)
Syria	NO (3 years' imprisonment)
Israel	YES



LGBTQ Rights

Government	Legal Protection for LGBTQ People from Discrimination and Hate Crimes	Honor Killing** Punished
Egypt	NO	NO
Iran	NO	NO
Jordan	NO	NO
Lebanon	NO	NO
Palestinians (Gaza)	NO	NO
Palestinians (West Bank)	NO	Minimal
Saudi Arabia	NO	NO
Syria	NO	Minimal
Israel	YES	YES

* Since 2012, Lebanese courts have found loopholes in the anti-sodomy laws that may pave the way to liberalization.

** An "honor killing" occurs when a male kills a female family member who has had sex – or is rumored to have had sex – outside of marriage, either by choice or because she was raped. Some countries have no penalties or only light penalties for this kind of killing.

Women's Rights

Government	Percentage of Women Who Are Illiterate (Age 15 and Older)
Egypt	31.9%
Iran	16.8%
Jordan	2.6%
Libya	14.2%
Palestinian Authority	5.59%
Saudi Arabia	8.2%
Syria	19%
Israel	3.9%



Women's Rights

Government	Travel Restrictions (Husband's or Male Relative's Consent Required)	Percentage of Women in Labor Force
Egypt	YES	24%
Iran	YES	16%
Jordan	YES	15%
Libya	YES (in practice)	30%
Palestinian Authority	YES (in practice)	15%
Saudi Arabia	YES	17%
Syria	YES	13%
Israel	NO	57% (similar to U.S./U.K.)



Civil Rights

Government	Free Speech & Assembly	Fair and Open Trials
Egypt	Limited	NO
Iran	NO	NO
Jordan	Minimal	Limited
Lebanon	Limited	NO
Palestinians (Gaza)	NO	NO
Palestinians (West Bank)	Limited	NO
Saudi Arabia	NO	NO
Sudan	NO	NO
Syria	NO	NO
Israel	YES	YES



Civil Rights

Government	Religious Freedom Protected	Freedom House Rating* Scale 1-7
Egypt	NO	5
Iran	NO	6
Jordan	Limited	5
Lebanon	Limited	4
Palestinians (Gaza)	NO	6
Palestinians (West Bank)	Limited	5
Saudi Arabia	NO	7
Sudan	NO	7
Syria	Limited	7
Israel	YES	2

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Freedom of Ideas

Government	Free Media (Uncensored)	Freedom to Criticize Religion	Academic Freedom
Egypt	NO	NO	NO
Iran	NO	NO	NO
Jordan	NO	NO	Partial
Palestinian Authority	NO	NO	Partial
Saudi Arabia	NO	NO	NO
Syria	NO	N/A	NO
Israel	YES	YES	YES



Freedom of Ideas

Government	Free Artistic Expression	Free Entry of Foreign Arts/ Books/Press
Egypt	NO	Partial
Iran	NO	NO
Jordan	Partial	Partial
Palestinian Authority	Partial	N/A
Saudi Arabia	NO	NO
Syria	NO	NO
Israel	YES	YES





Israel represents justice, resilience, and hope. It is a nation of indigenous people who overcame 1,900 years of oppression to achieve freedom in their ancestral home.



**Despite its flaws and conflicts,
Israel upholds human rights
and is the only proven
democracy in the Middle East.**

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