



Jordanian Youth: Perceptions and Engagement in Human Rights

With the support of:



Jordanian Youth: Perceptions and Engagement in Human Rights





Contents

Acknowledgements	6
List of Abbreviations	7
Executive Summary	8
1. Introduction:	9
1.1 Methodology	11
1.1.1 The Quantitative Study Sample	11
1.1.2 The Qualitative Study Sample	14
1.2 Ethical Considerations	15
1.3 Methodological Challenges and Limitations	15
1.4 Structure	16
2. Attitudes to Human Rights	17
2.1 Freedom of Expression and Access to Information	18
2.1.1 Quantitative Findings:	19
2.1.2 Qualitative Findings:	21
2.1.3 Summing up	22
2.2 Gender Norms and Women's rights	23
2.2.1 Quantitative Findings	23
2.2.2 Qualitative Findings	26
2.2.3 Summing Up	27
2.3 Administrative Detention and Torture	28
2.3.1 Quantitative Findings	29
2.3.2 Qualitative Findings	31
2.3.3 Summing up	32
3. Perceptions of Human Rights Protection in Jordan	33
3.1 Perceptions of Human Rights Protection	34
3.1.1 Quantitative Findings	34
3.1.2 Qualitative Findings	38
3.1.3 Summing up	40

3.2 Perceptions of Discrimination	41
3.2.1 Quantitative Findings	41
3.2.2 Qualitative Finding	44
3.2.3 Summing up	45
4. Knowledge of Human Rights Institutions and Organizations	47
4.1 Quantitative Findings:	48
4.2 Qualitative Findings	49
4.3 Summing up	51
5. Engagement in Human Rights Activities	53
5.1 Quantitative Findings:	54
5.2 Qualitative Findings	59
5.3 Summing Up	62
6. Conclusions	63
6.1 Youths' Attitudes towards Human Rights	64
6.2 Perceptions of Human Rights Protection in Jordan:	65
6.3 Knowledge and Trust in Human Rights Institutions	65
6.4 Young People's Engagement in Human Rights Activities:	66
6.5 Key Takeaways	67
Annex	69
Annex A Bibliography of Sources Consulted	70
Annex B Data Collection Tools	71
Quantitative tools	71
Qualitative tools:	78
Annex C List of Tables and Figures	82

Acknowledgements

The Information and Research Center - King Hussein Foundation (IRCKHF) would like to extend its sincere gratitude to the Danish Institute for Human Rights for their pivotal role in guiding the field research process. Their expertise in both quantitative and qualitative methodologies was instrumental in ensuring the development of appropriate and effective research tools. The valuable insights and support provided by the Danish Institute significantly contributed to the success and depth of this study.

IRCKHF Director

Professor Ayman Halaseh

Research Team:

- Prof. Ayman Halaseh
- Hala Abu Taleb
- Majed Abu Azzam
- Alaa Shaban
- Dalia Haddad
- Rawan Rbehat
- Juhaina Zreqat
- Amal Khalifeh.

Translated by Rayana Abuwandi

Designed by Allam Gharaibeh - Allam Gharaibeh Foundation for graphic design and printing services.

List of Abbreviations

CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CBO	Community-Based Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HS	High School Education or Less
IC	Income Covers Expenses and Able to Save
ID	Income Does Not Cover Expenses and Faces Difficulties
JMC	Jordan Media Commission
NCHR	National Center for Human Rights
RTI	Right to Information
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
ILO	International Labor Organization
IEC	Independent Election Commission
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
HRW	Human Rights Watch



Executive Summary

By employing both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, this study investigates the attitudes and perceptions of Jordanian youth towards human rights, focusing on key areas such as freedom of speech, gender equality, detention without trial, and torture. It also explores how Jordanian youth perceive human rights protection, their knowledge of human rights institutions, and their engagement in various human rights activities. The research specifically examines these attitudes and perceptions across different demographic factors, including gender, age, education, and geographical location. The findings of the study can assist in designing tailored programs that promote human rights, address negative perceptions, and tackle the obstacles that hinder youth engagement in human rights activities. Additionally, the study provides insights into how human rights institutions can better reach out to youth, gain their trust, and effectively communicate their mandate.

The study used surveys and focus group discussions to collect data from a diverse sample of young Jordanians. The survey included 459 respondents from three main regions (North, Central, and South), while focus group discussions were held with 57 participants in the three regions.

Key findings reveal that most young people value freedom of expression and media freedom, but legal and societal pressures cause self-censorship and fear of repercussions. There is strong support for gender equality among youth, but traditional gender roles and societal norms still limit women's full participation in public life. Concerns about arbitrary detention and the use of torture are common among youth, highlighting the need for legal reforms in this area.

Youth perceptions of human rights protection vary widely across gender, regions, and socio-economic status. Women and those from less urbanized areas feel more vulnerable to rights violations. According to participants in our study, key barriers to human rights protection include social norms, family influences, conservative forces, security concerns, and bureaucratic inefficiencies.

Many young Jordanians are actively engaged in human rights advocacy, such as engaging in online platforms, joining marches and protests and writing articles. Their degree of participation is influenced by socio-economic status and regional disparities; thus, young people with lower socio-economic status and young people from the northern and southern regions seem to be less engaged than others.

The study highlights the significant political, societal, familial, and structural challenges that shape young people's perceptions of human rights protection in Jordan. Understanding these issues is crucial for ensuring that the perspectives of youth are acknowledged, and their rights are effectively protected. By addressing these challenges, stakeholders can better engage with youth and contribute to ongoing efforts to create a more just and equitable society in Jordan.

1. Introduction



1. Introduction:

ongoing challenges. According to Freedom House, Jordan is classified as a “Not Free” country, indicating significant limitations on political rights and civil liberties. This classification reflects various factors, including restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly, and the press. The Jordanian government has made notable progress in promoting democratic principles and human rights through legislative reforms, with the Constitution guaranteeing civil, political, social, and economic rights. Jordan has ratified most core human rights conventions and regularly reports to the UN Human Rights Council and treaty bodies. National human rights institutions play a crucial role in monitoring and advocating for these rights, providing a framework for addressing grievances and promoting awareness.

However, challenges remain in the practical enforcement of these rights. Restrictions on freedom of expression and the press are particularly notable, with laws such as the cybercrime law being criticized for curbing dissent and limiting online freedoms. Journalists and activists often face legal and administrative obstacles, and there are reports of harassment and detention for those who criticize the government or discuss sensitive issues. Issues of gender inequality also persist, with women facing barriers in various sectors, including employment, education, and political participation. Traditional gender roles and societal norms continue to hinder women’s full engagement in public life. Additionally, the rights of marginalized groups, such as refugees, migrant workers, and persons with disabilities, are not always adequately protected, leading to instances of discrimination and limited access to essential services.

The study is organized to systematically explore Jordanian youth’s perceptions of human rights, beginning with an analysis of their attitudes towards key issues like freedom of expression and gender equality. It then delves into their views on human rights protection in Jordan, assessing the effectiveness of current laws and policies. The study also evaluates their awareness of human rights institutions and examines their involvement in advocacy activities. Finally, the study concludes with targeted recommendations aimed at enhancing human rights awareness and advocacy among youth in Jordan.

The current geopolitical challenges in the region, particularly events in Gaza, further underscore the importance of understanding youth perceptions of human rights. These challenges have sparked heightened criticism and distrust of the international human rights framework among young people, who often perceive it as inconsistent or influenced by specific geopolitical interests. These conditions are more likely to have influenced the survey results, particularly in shaping their beliefs about human rights at the international level and the effectiveness of the mechanisms provided for human rights and international humanitarian law protection.

While Jordan has made strides in certain areas of human rights protection, significant work remains to ensure that all people, especially the youth, can fully enjoy their rights and freedoms. This report underscores the broader significance of integrating youth voices into human rights discourse, ensuring their active participation in shaping a more equitable and rights-respecting society in Jordan and beyond. Continued collaboration between the government, civil society, national human rights institutions and international organizations is essential for advancing human rights in the country. This study seeks to contribute to these efforts by providing an examination of the challenges and aspirations that shape young people’s attitudes toward human rights.

1.1 Methodology

This study employed a descriptive-analytical approach, meaning it combined descriptive research to systematically capture and summarize the views and perceptions of Jordanian youth on human rights, with analytical approach to interpret and analyze the data in order to identify patterns, correlations, and underlying factors. The methodology focused on examining rights relevant to the Jordanian context, as outlined in the Jordanian Constitution, national legislation, and national human rights institutions.¹

We conducted an analysis of specific rights deemed significant and prioritized within the human rights landscape in Jordan. This included an expanded examination of these rights and an exploration of young people's perceptions, experiences, and knowledge concerning them. Additionally, the study assessed the awareness of Jordanian youth regarding international governmental and non-governmental organizations involved in human rights.

To meet the study's objectives, the Information and Research Center King Hussein Foundation used a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative research. The quantitative method, through a questionnaire, provided broad, generalizable data on youth attitudes and behaviors, while the qualitative method, via focus group discussions, offered deeper insights into their experiences and reasoning. This combination allowed the study to capture a comprehensive overview of youth perceptions and uncover underlying factors, leading to a more robust and valid analysis. To ensure comprehensive representation, the focus group discussions included participants from the three regions of Jordan. The quantitative study sample was scientifically pre-determined, considering population distribution, the targeted age group, and accurately defining the sample characteristics.

1.1.1 The Quantitative Study Sample

The quantitative sample targeted young individuals aged 18 to 24 living in Jordan. The sample also included non-Jordanian youth residing in Jordan, ensuring representation of the following groups:

- Jordanian youth
- Refugee youth in Jordan.
- Non-Jordanian youth residing in Jordan.

For the study, we relied on data from the Department of Statistics ²up to the end of 2023. According to the Department of Statistics, by the end of 2023, there were 1,142,905 young people aged 20-24 and 1,145,135 young people aged 15-19 in Jordan. The research team calculated that a minimum of 384 respondents would be needed for the study, to ensure representativity and generalizability of the study. This was based on a 95% confidence level, a 5% margin of error, and a standard deviation of 0.5. The team collected 459 completed questionnaires, distributed across the three main regions in Jordan (North, Central, South), considering the population density of each region when determining the number of questionnaires for each region. Table 1 illustrates the sample size distribution across the three regions.

1. This research is inextricably linked to our previous study, A Mapping of the Institutional Framework of Human Rights Protection and Promotion in Jordan. The analysis of youth perceptions in this study was significantly enhanced by the insights obtained from mapping the institutional framework, which provided a foundational understanding. By integrating the findings from both studies, we were able to derive deeper conclusions about the effectiveness of human rights protection and promotion in Jordan and how these frameworks influence youth perceptions.

2. The Jordanian Department of Statistics is an official, independent agency responsible for collecting and disseminating demographic, social, economic, and agricultural statistics.

Table 1: Frequencies and Percentages of the Quantitative Study Sample Distribution Across the Regions of the Kingdom

Region	Frequency	Percentage
Northern Region (Irbid, Jerash, Ajloun, Mafrq)	135	29.4%
Central Region (Amman, Zarqa, Madaba, Salt)	278	60.6%
Southern Region (Karak, Tafila, Ma'an, Aqaba)	44	9.6%
Total	457	100%

We collected data from respondents through a questionnaire administered via phone, using the “Random Digital Dialing” system. This method ensured broad opportunities for individuals to be selected for participation in this study, since the majority of Jordanians have access to mobile phones.³

Before commencing the questionnaire administration, the research team underwent training and formulated a set of guidelines for conducting phone interviews. These guidelines aimed to ensure the safety of respondents and individuals requiring assistance, as well as to provide effective and efficient support.

Data collection took place between March and April 2024. During this period, the research team successfully completed 459 questionnaires, which were distributed across the three regions. The number of surveys conducted in each region was determined based on the numbers provided by the Department of Statistics, which accounted for various demographics such as gender, population size, education levels, and income. The demographic groups in this survey were carefully designed to capture the diverse experiences and perspectives of Jordanian youth across different regions,⁴ educational backgrounds,⁵ income levels,⁶ nationality and marital status. Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4 illustrate the characteristics of respondents by gender, age group, education level, and marital status.

3. Mobile phone subscribers in Jordan reach 7.6 million,» Jordan News, June 3, 2023, Jordan News. «[Social media dominates Jordan's digital landscape with 95.8% engagement rate – survey](#),» Jordan Times, December 17, 2023. Last visited 11 August 2024.

4. Respondents were categorized based on their geographical location within Jordan, divided into three main regions: North, Middle, and South. Each of these regions consists of four governorates, reflecting the administrative divisions of the country. This grouping allows for a more nuanced understanding of regional differences and how location influences perceptions and experiences related to human rights and social issues.

5. Education Level: Participants were grouped by their education level into two main categories: «Diploma+» and «HS-». The «Diploma+» category includes individuals with a Diploma or higher degree, such as a Bachelors, Masters, or other advanced degrees. The «HS-» category encompasses those with a High School education or less, including individuals with no formal education or only primary education. This classification helps to explore the impact of educational attainment on awareness, attitudes, and access to rights and services.

6. Income levels were categorized to distinguish between households with varying economic stability. The «Income covers expenses and able to save (IC)» group includes respondents whose income covers their expenses with the ability to save, indicating financial stability. Within this group, some can save without significant difficulty. The «Income does not cover expenses and faces difficulties (ID)» group consists of respondents whose income does not cover their expenses, highlighting financial insecurity. This group includes those facing some difficulties as well as those facing significant difficulties in meeting their expenses. This categorization provides insight into how economic status influences individuals' experiences and access to rights and resources.

Figure No. 1: Gender

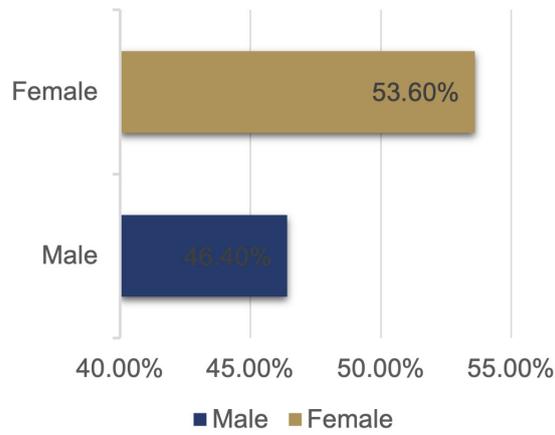


Figure No. 2: Nationality

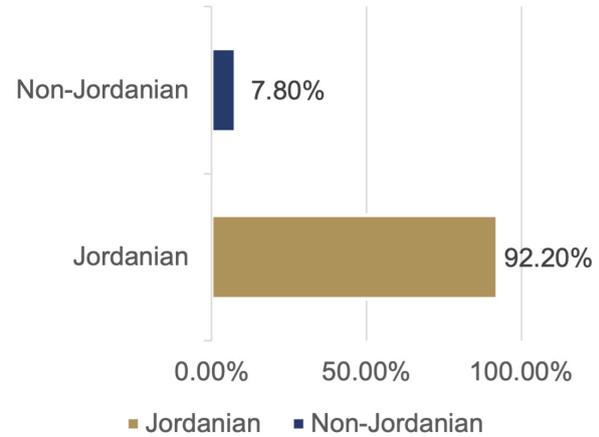


Figure No. 3: Education Level

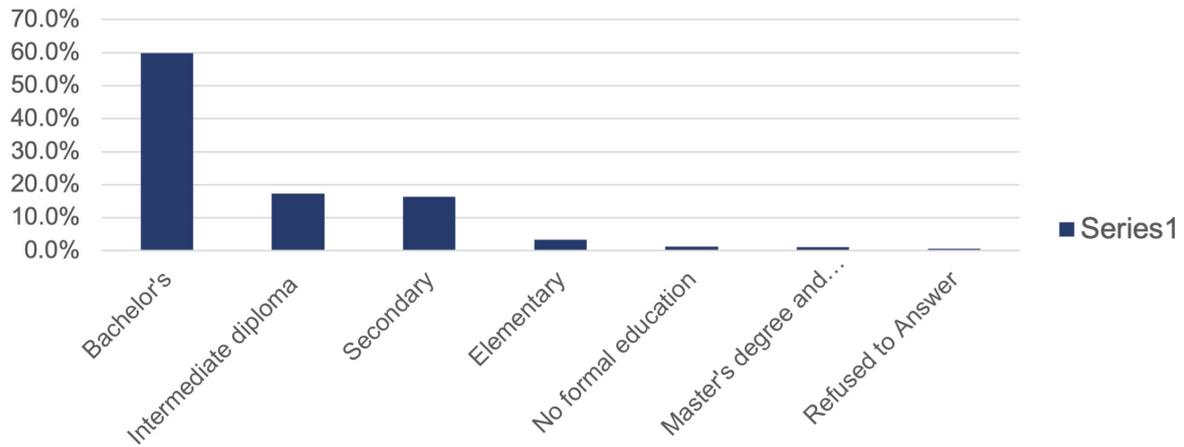


Figure No. 4: Marital Status



Table 2 illustrates the demographics of the sample based on the family income level.

Family Income	Total
Our income covers our expenses, and we can save	10.9%
Our income covers our expenses without significant difficulty	51.9%
Our income does not cover our expenses; we face some difficulty	25.7%
Our income does not cover our expenses; we face significant difficulty	4.4%
I don't know	3.3%
Refused to Answer	3.7%
Total	100.0%

1.1.2 The Qualitative Study Sample

In the second phase of data collection, we used a qualitative approach. The use of focus group discussions provided the study with an additional advantage in exploring various opinions and perspectives of the youth, offering deeper insights into their perceptions of human rights in Jordan. The focus groups also helped interpret some quantitative research results and their implications.

We conducted six focus group discussions with young participants, dividing them into three groups of young men and three groups of young women, evenly distributed across the three main regions of the Kingdom, as detailed in Table 3. This gender-based division was deliberately chosen due to the social and cultural context in Jordan, where men and women are generally more comfortable expressing their views in segregated settings. This approach ensured that participants could speak more freely and openly, allowing us to gather more honest and detailed insights. Dividing the focus groups by education or economic status, while valuable in some contexts, was not as practical or effective in this setting given the primary importance of creating a comfortable environment for discussion. By focusing on gender, we were able to facilitate more meaningful conversations, which enhanced the depth and quality of the data collected. These groups were evenly distributed across the three main regions of the Kingdom, as detailed in Table 3.

No.	Region and Governorate	Gender	Number of Participants
1	Central Region / Amman Governorate	Female	9
2	Central Region / Amman Governorate	Male	10
3	Northern Region / Irbid Governorate	Female	9
4	Northern Region / Irbid Governorate	Male	9
5	Southern Region / Amman Governorate	Male	10
6	Southern Region / Ma'an Governorate	Female	10

Out of the 57 participants, 46 were Jordanian nationals. Additionally, there were eight Syrian participants and three Palestinian participants. These other nationalities were selected to ensure diverse representation, taking into account that both Syrians and Palestinians have a significant presence in Jordan. The focus groups also included a diverse mix of participants in terms of employment status, marital status, educational background, and income levels, ensuring that a wide range of perspectives were represented.

1.2 Ethical Considerations

Prior to data collection, the researchers underwent rigorous training to ensure the research project's compliance with ethical principles and privacy standards. This included obtaining informed consent from all participants, ensuring they understood the purpose, procedures, and potential risks of the study. Consent was voluntary, and participants could withdraw at any stage without consequences. Voice recordings of focus group discussions were conducted only after explicit consent was secured from all participants.

Given the sensitive nature of the topics discussed, strict measures were implemented to ensure confidentiality. The team safeguarded the confidentiality of participants' information by anonymizing data and securely storing it, accessible only to authorized personnel. All published results were presented in an aggregated form, meaning that individual responses were combined and analyzed as part of larger groups, preventing the identification of any single participant. Data will be stored on a local drive for four years, after which it will be permanently destroyed.

The team sought to protect the privacy of participants during data collection, ensuring a comfortable and secure environment. Personal information was collected only to the extent necessary for the research objectives. Additionally, the team ensured that the research process did not exploit vulnerable populations or contribute to their further marginalization.

Efforts were made to minimize any potential harm and maximize the positive impact of the study. To minimize potential harm, the team implemented strict confidentiality protocols, provided psychological support where needed, and ensured voluntary participation with the option to withdraw at any time. To foster a positive impact, the team engaged with local communities to incorporate their feedback and aimed to raise awareness on human rights issues.

Throughout the research process, the team maintained transparency by providing clear and transparent communication about the study's purpose, procedures, and potential outcomes to all stakeholders, including participants, local communities, and relevant authorities.

1.3 Methodological Challenges and Limitations

Most participants in the focus group discussions were primarily chosen with the assistance of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). Despite the research team's close collaboration with CBOs and the provision of explicit guidelines for ensuring diversity in participant selection, the potential for selection bias remains. This bias could occur if some CBOs unintentionally selected participants who were more active or visible within their communities, potentially excluding less engaged or harder-to-reach individuals. To mitigate this, the research team conducted random checks and engaged directly with CBOs to encourage the inclusion of a broader range of participants, ensuring that a diverse cross-section of the youth population was represented.

Social desirability bias is another challenge. Despite the meticulous drafting of the survey questions and the proper training of the enumerators, there remains a potential for respondents to misunderstand or misinterpret questions or to provide answers they believe are socially acceptable rather than truthful. To counter this, the research team used carefully worded questions designed to minimize leading responses and provided enumerators with extensive training on neutral questioning techniques. Additionally, in the focus group discussions, facilitators were trained to create a safe and open environment, encouraging honest dialogue and minimizing the influence of societal norms or expectations.

1.4 Structure

This study is structured to systematically explore the perceptions and engagement of Jordanian youth with human rights, following a logical progression from the study's objectives to actionable recommendations.

1. Introduction: This chapter provides an overview of the study's objectives and significance, highlighting the importance of understanding youth perspectives on human rights within the Jordanian context. It also details the research design, sample selection, and data collection methods, setting the stage for the in-depth analysis that follows.

2. Attitudes to Human Rights: In this chapter, the study presents findings on youth perspectives regarding key human rights issues, such as freedom of expression, gender equality, and the right to fair treatment. This section examines how these attitudes vary across different demographic factors, including gender, age, education, and geographic location, thus addressing the study's objective of identifying the factors that shape youth perceptions of human rights.

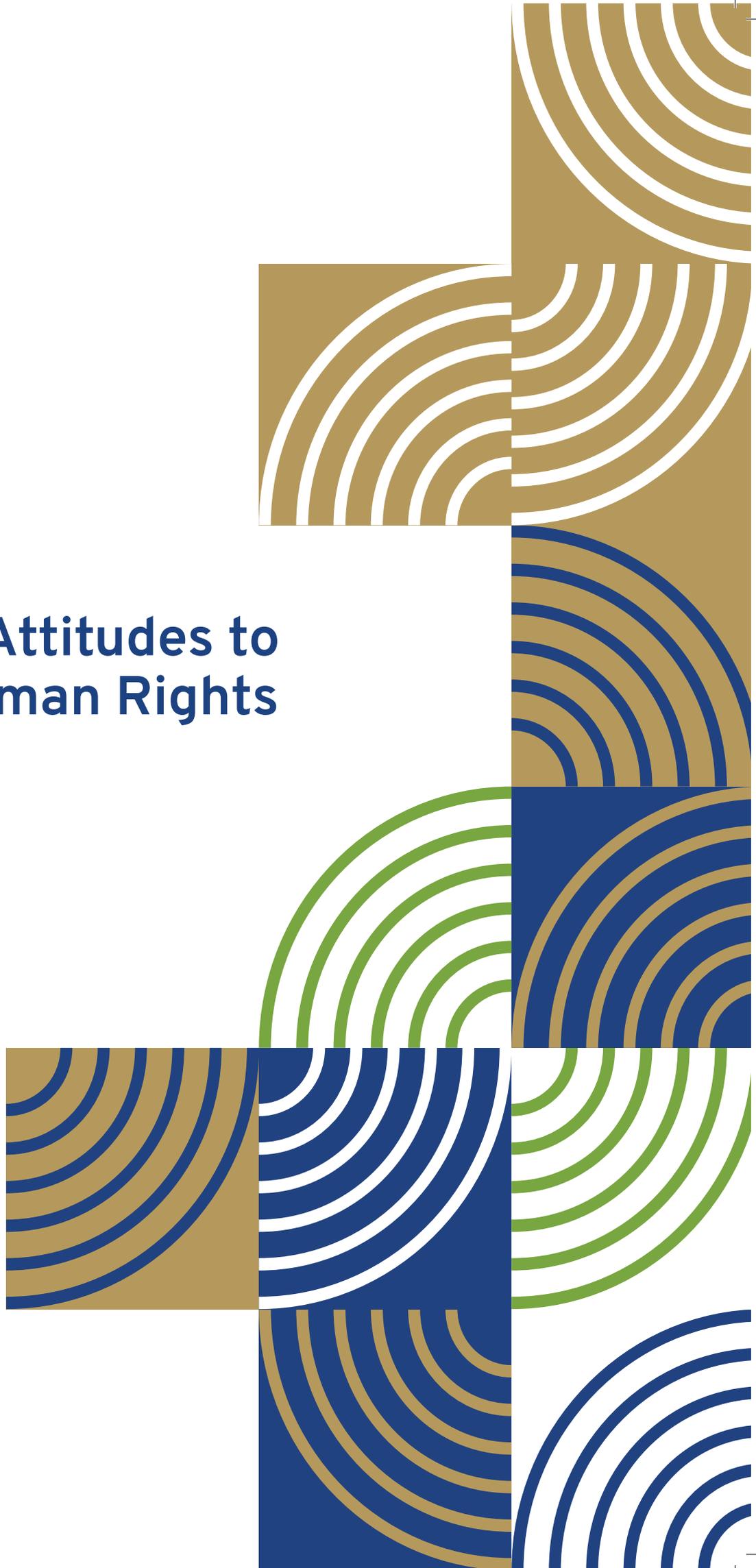
3. Perceptions of Human Rights Protection: This chapter analyzes how young people in Jordan perceive the protection of human rights in their country. It explores their views on the effectiveness of current laws and policies, and whether they feel their rights are adequately safeguarded. The analysis identifies gaps between legislative frameworks and youth experiences, highlighting areas where human rights protection needs to be strengthened. While the study does not directly propose strategies for addressing these concerns and negative perceptions, it provides valuable insights that can help concerned entities better understand these issues and develop targeted interventions to address them.

4. Knowledge of Human Rights Institutions: This section assesses the level of awareness among Jordanian youth regarding national and international human rights organizations. It explores the extent to which young people are familiar with these institutions and their roles, which is critical for understanding how well-equipped youth are to engage with human rights advocacy. These findings not only tie back to the study's objective of uncovering opportunities to enhance rights awareness and advocacy but also provide national institutions with valuable insights on how to better reach out to youth, increase awareness of their mandates, and clarify their roles in protecting human rights.

5. Engagement in Human Rights Activities: Here, the study examines the extent to which Jordanian youth are involved in human rights advocacy and activism. It looks at the factors that encourage or hinder their participation in these activities, contributing to the study's goal of identifying ways to improve youth engagement in human rights initiatives. This chapter provides practical insights into how to foster a more active and informed youth population in the realm of human rights.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations: The final chapter synthesizes the findings from the previous sections, offering a summary of the study's key insights. It provides targeted recommendations for improving human rights awareness and advocacy among Jordanian youth, directly addressing the study's overall objectives. These recommendations are intended to guide policymakers, educators, and human rights organizations in developing strategies that are responsive to the needs and challenges identified in the study.

2. Attitudes to Human Rights



2. Attitudes to Human Rights

This section explores how young people in Jordan perceive and engage with key human rights issues. By “attitudes,” we refer to their beliefs, opinions, and the extent to which they support, value, and advocate for these rights. Understanding these attitudes is essential because they influence how young people interact with human rights in their daily lives, their willingness to advocate for these rights, and their overall engagement in societal change.

To provide a comprehensive picture of these attitudes, we use both quantitative and qualitative data. The section focuses on three main areas:

Freedom of Expression and Access to Information: We explore how young people feel about their right to speak freely and access information without censorship, including their views on media freedom and cybercrime laws.

Gender Norms and Women’s Rights: We examine attitudes towards gender equality, the role of women in society, and the barriers women face. This includes both support for and resistance to traditional gender roles and norms.

Administrative Detention and Torture: We look at how young people perceive legal practices related to detention without trial and the use of torture. This includes their awareness and opinions on these practices and their impact on human rights.

Each part of this section begins with an overview of the specific human right being examined, providing context before delving into the analysis of survey and focus group data.

These insights are crucial for identifying the challenges and opportunities that youth perceive in the realm of human rights. This understanding can guide targeted educational efforts, policy interventions, and advocacy strategies aimed at empowering young people to actively participate in promoting and protecting human rights in Jordan.

2.1 Freedom of Expression and Access to Information

The right to freedom of expression and access to information are fundamental human rights outlined in several international covenants. According to Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.” Similarly, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) states in Article 19 that “Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference” and “Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression.”

According to the Jordanian constitution, “the State shall guarantee freedom of opinion; and every Jordanian shall freely express his opinion by speech, writing, photography, and the other means of expression, provided that s/he does not go beyond the limits of the law.”⁷

Recently, Jordan has implemented significant changes to its laws with the goal of promoting a more open and free media industry, as well as enhancing the rights to access information and express oneself. These measures encompass the removal of criminal penalties for press-related offenses, the creation of the Jordan Media Commission (JMC), and the authorization of independent TV and FM radio stations, among other actions. However, there are still important obstacles that need to be addressed in the sector. These obstacles include a wide range of legal and administrative regulations that restrict freedom of expression and access to information. Additionally, there is a prevailing environment where government criticism is heavily restricted.

7. Article 15/1, the Jordanian Constitution of 1952.

Human Rights Watch notes that Jordanian authorities employ ambiguous and excessively inclusive criminal provisions, such as those found in the Penal Code of 1960, the Cybercrime Law of 2015, the Anti-Terrorism Law of 2006, and the Crime Prevention Law of 1954, to stifle freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.⁸ In 2023, a revised Cyber Crimes Law was enacted to replace the previous 2015 law. This new law makes it a crime to create and distribute online content that is deemed by the authorities to be false news, hate speech, detrimental to national unity, or encouraging immoral behavior.⁹ The law has also been considered to potentially infringe on freedom of expression.¹⁰

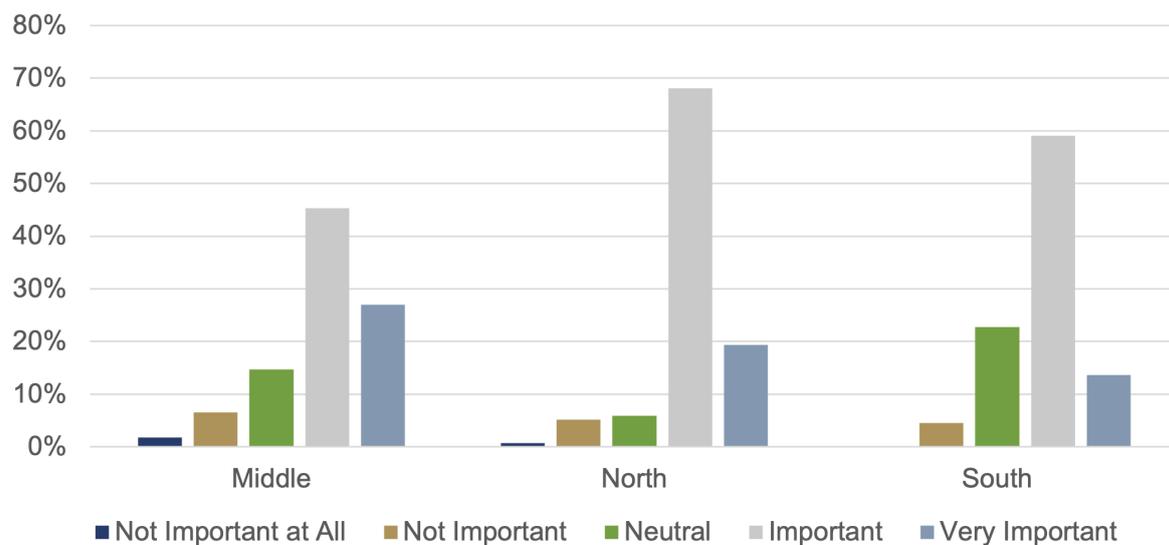
According to the 2024 World Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders, Jordan is ranked 132nd out of 180 countries in terms of press freedom, showing an improvement of 14 positions from 2023 to 2024. However, this improvement still indicates significant challenges in press freedom. Additionally, according to the Right to Information (RTI) Rating, Jordan ranked 125th out of 139 countries, indicating the weak effectiveness of this law in achieving its intended benefits. This weak performance is also reflected in Jordan's standings on other international indices related to transparency and freedom of expression.¹¹

2.1.1 Quantitative Findings

This section presents the survey results on Jordanian youth's perspectives regarding freedom of expression, media freedom, and the impact of cybercrime laws. The survey reveals significant insights into how different demographic groups prioritize these freedoms. Additionally, it examines attitudes toward government censorship for political stability and the perceived restrictive nature of cybercrime laws on free speech.

Freedom of Expression: In our survey, we asked participants how important they think it is to live in a country where you can freely express your opinions and criticize the state or government. A significant proportion of Jordanian youth value freedom of expression, with 80.5% of women and 72.8% of men rating it as important or very important. Notably, women show a stronger inclination towards this human right. Geographically, young people in the Northern region place the highest importance on freedom of speech (87.4%), compared to 72.3% in the Southern region and 73.7% in the Middle region. Education also plays a role, with 78.9% of individuals holding a Diploma+ degree considering free speech to be important, compared to 70.9% of those with a high school education or less. Interestingly, people's income levels do not correlate with the importance they place on freedom of expression.

Figure No. (5): Living in a country where you can freely express your opinions and criticize the state or government - based on region.



8. Human Rights Watch, [Jordan: Government Crushes Civic Space](#), 18 September 2022, last visited 17 June 2024.

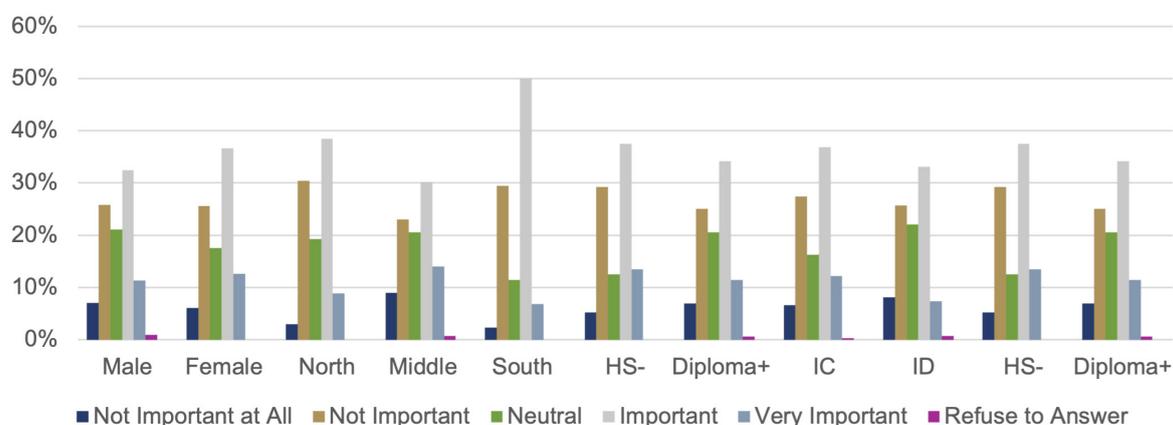
9. The Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development, [Position Paper on the Cybercrime Law Issued by Al Nahda activists](#), 8 August 2023, last visited 17 June 2024.

10. Jordan Open-Source Association (JOSA) (2024). [Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence Legislative Mapping](#), p 19. Last visited 1 Aug 2024.

11. [UNESCO, The Right to Information \(RTI\) Rating](#), last visited 10 July 2024.

Access to Information: We also asked participants how important they think it is to live in a country where the media can transmit and present news without censorship.

Figure No. (6): Living in a country where the media can transmit and present news without censorship

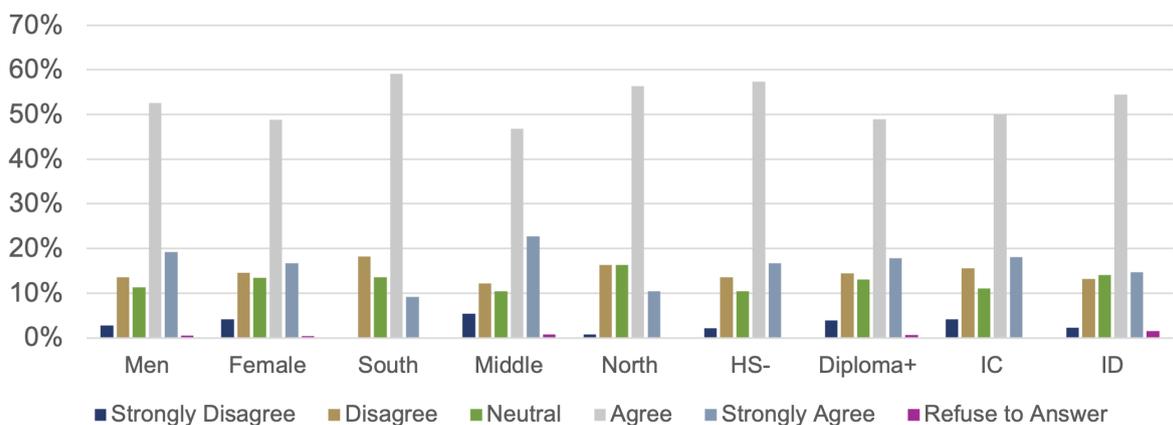


A significant number of participants, around 47%, perceive the freedom of media to disseminate and present news as important or highly important, suggesting that many Jordanian youth view freedom of the press as a fundamental principle. Less than 33% see media freedom as unimportant.

Regional differences reveal that the South shows the highest support for media freedom (56.8%), followed by the North 47.4% and the Middle 44.2%. Educational disparities also exist, with 50% of HS- individuals and 54.8% of Diploma+ individuals considering media freedom important or very important. This indicates that higher education may enhance appreciation for an uncensored media’s role in society.

Media Censorship: The data shows consensus on government intervention in media content for political stability, with 71.8% of men and 65.5% of women in agreement with this statement. Among HS- individuals, 74% agree compared to 66.7% among Diploma+ holders, suggesting higher education correlates with a more critical stance on government censorship. Geographically, the Middle region leads with 69.5% agreement, followed by the South with 68.2% and the North with 66.7%. These findings underscore complex perspectives on media regulation, possibly influenced by perceptions of government stability duties and confidence in media institutions.

Figure No. 7: It is permissible for the government to prevent the media from publishing content that may undermine political stability.

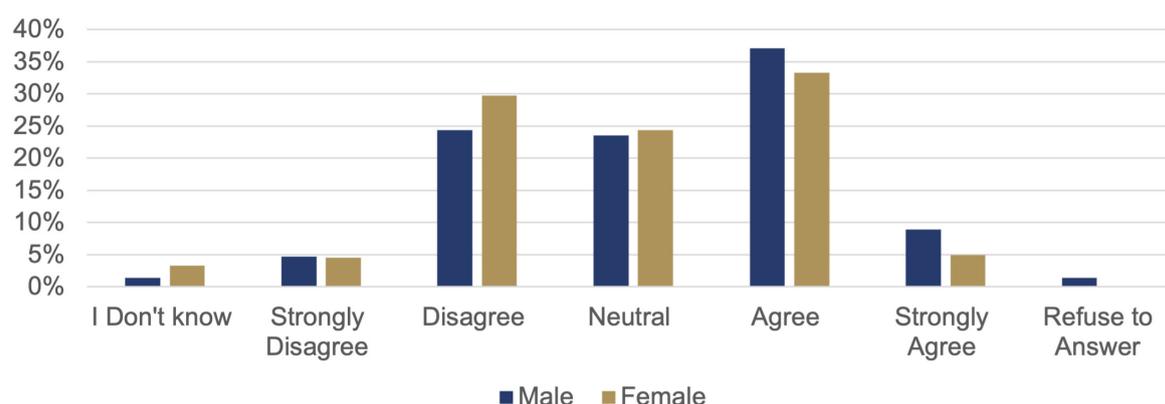


The data also reveals divergent perspectives among participants on media freedom and government intervention as shown in table 3. While many value unrestricted media, a notable segment supports government censorship to maintain political stability. The findings emphasize the varied perspectives among young people in Jordan, at the same time acknowledging the significance of unrestricted media and the perceived necessity for regulated information distribution in certain situations.

	It is important or very important the media can transmit and present news without censorship	I disagree or strongly disagree that it is permissible for the government to prevent the media from publishing content that may undermine political stability.
Men	43.7%	16.4%
Women	49.2%	18.7%

The Cybercrime Law: A significant portion of youth, 46% of men and 38.2% of women, believe that the Cybercrime Law restricts freedom of expression. Regional variations show that youth in the South (56.8%) are more aware of the law's implications than those in the Middle (41.4%) and North (38.6%). Education and income levels show minor differences, with 43.8% of HS-individuals and 41.1% of Diploma+ individuals agreeing with the statement. This indicates a widespread concern among Jordanian youth about the law's impact on free speech.

Figure No. (8): The cybercrime law restricts freedom of expression.



2.1.2 Qualitative Findings

This section examines the realities of freedom of expression among Jordanian youth, drawing from qualitative insights gathered through focus group discussions. Participants discussed the gap between theoretical freedoms and practical limitations, citing strict laws, societal pressures, and gender disparities that hinder open discourse.

Participants in focus groups discussed the formal recognition of freedom of expression in Jordan, alongside practical barriers that hinder its full realization. Many acknowledged its theoretical existence but highlighted significant obstacles such as strict regulations, societal pressures, and fear of repercussions. One participant noted, *'Freedom of expression exists in theory, but in reality, many people are afraid to express their opinions because of strict laws'* (FGD01, Amman, Female).

The role of societal norms in limiting freedom of expression emerged as a prominent theme. Participants pointed out that fear of social ostracism and familial disapproval often leads to self-censorship. A participant from Irbid mentioned, *"There is significant social pressure that makes people avoid talking about certain topics, especially among family and neighbors"* (FGD04, Irbid, Male).

Discussions also highlighted gender disparities in expressing opinions openly. Female participants expressed facing more significant challenges and fears compared to their male counterparts. *‘Women are more afraid than men to express their opinions, especially if the opinion goes against traditions’ (FGD05, Shobak, Female).*

The limitations on freedom of expression were seen to have broader implications for political and social discourse in Jordan. Participants emphasized that these restrictions hinder open debate, and the exchange of diverse viewpoints is essential for a healthy democracy. A participant from Amman commented, *‘Without real freedom of expression, there is no room for free and constructive debate in society’ (FGD02, Amman, Male).*

Participants proposed several ways to enhance freedom of expression in Jordan. They emphasized the need for legal reforms to protect individuals expressing opinions, public awareness campaigns to foster societal openness, and educational programs to promote critical thinking. *‘There should be laws that protect people who express their opinions, so they don’t fear punishment’ (FGD04, Irbid, Male).’*

Discussions also revolved around concerns regarding media freedom and government censorship. Participants expressed worries about the impact of censorship on media freedom, highlighting both governmental regulations and societal pressures. *“Media freedom is limited because of government censorship and the fear of repercussions’ (FGD02, Amman, Male).”*

While recognizing the importance of maintaining stability, participants also stressed the need to balance censorship with respect for human rights and freedom of the press. *“Censorship should be reduced to allow for a more open dialogue’ (FGD04, Irbid, Male).”*

Participants discussed the influential role of media in shaping public opinion and underscored the importance of transparent and accountable media practices to build trust and ensure accurate information dissemination. *“There are channels that broadcast false things, which can cause political strife among people’ (FGD03, Irbid, Female).”*

Lastly, participants called for public awareness campaigns to promote acceptance of diverse opinions and gender equality, as well as educational initiatives to equip journalists with the skills needed to navigate challenges in reporting. *“There should be awareness campaigns to encourage people to accept different opinions and achieve gender equality’ (FGD02, Amman, Male).”*

2.1.3 Summing Up

The results from focus group discussions and survey data give us a nuanced picture of how young people in Jordan view human rights issues related to freedom of expression and media freedom, and how they assess the impact of cybercrime laws on their lives.

The quantitative data shows that a significant majority of Jordanian youth value freedom of expression, underscoring the importance of this right across gender, regions, and educational backgrounds. However, they find that limitations such as legal constraints and societal pressures present substantial barriers to its full realization. In the qualitative interviews, participants further articulated these sentiments, highlighting concerns about strict regulations, fear of repercussions, and societal norms that contribute to self-censorship, particularly among women. These insights underscore the broader societal dynamics that influence the exercise of free speech in Jordan.

When it comes to media freedom, the data reveals a complex interplay of attitudes among Jordanian youth: while many recognize the importance of unrestricted media, a notable segment also supports governmental censorship under the guise of maintaining political stability. This dual narrative of support for media freedom alongside concerns about stability and societal repercussions points to the need for balanced approaches in policymaking, ensuring protection of free speech while also addressing legitimate concerns about national security and social cohesion. A balanced approach means creating policies that uphold the

right to free expression without allowing harmful speech that incites violence or threatens public safety. It involves clear and precise regulations that prevent abuse, ensuring that restrictions are only applied in specific and justified circumstances, with adequate safeguards to protect against arbitrary enforcement.

2.2 Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Social norms around gender are found in every society, shaping what behaviors, actions, and roles are deemed acceptable for men and women. In Jordan, these norms often perpetuate biases that undervalue women's capabilities and restrict their rights, limiting opportunities for autonomy and decision-making.

Over the past two decades, gender issues in the Middle East, including Jordan, have received increasing attention. The Jordanian government and international donors have made gender equality a top priority – and for good reason. As elsewhere in the region, women in Jordan face significant discrimination in many aspects of their lives.¹² The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has expressed alarm over the persistent stereotypes regarding women's roles in families and society in Jordan. These stereotypes, which emphasize women's traditional roles as mothers and wives, undermine women's social status, educational opportunities, and career prospects. There is concern that patriarchal attitudes, both within state authorities and society at large, are growing, with conservative groups openly challenging gender equality.¹³

Despite widespread agreement among Jordanians that women and men should have equal rights, attitudes towards women's roles in society are less progressive. Studies have highlighted significant barriers for women, particularly in decision-making within households. Over 90% of female respondents from a 2022 Arab Barometer study cited male family members, typically husbands, as influential in their decisions to work. Marriage, childbearing, and domestic duties further constrain women's economic participation.¹⁴

According to UN Women's Gender Equality Survey on Jordan, stereotypical gender beliefs persist in Jordanian society, impacting roles, responsibilities, and fundamental freedoms across various aspects of life such as education, employment, and personal autonomy. A significant majority of men (87%) believe that a woman's primary role is to manage household duties and cook for the family, compared to 52% of women who share this view. Additionally, 73% of men (versus 40% of women) agree that men should have the final say in household decisions. Although women generally hold similar attitudes to men regarding gender roles, there is a notable trend towards more progressive views among educated women. Among male respondents, 44% believe that, in resource-scarce situations, educating sons is more important than educating daughters. Nevertheless, half of the male respondents acknowledge that women should have equal rights to work outside the home as their husbands. These findings underscore significant disparities between common societal beliefs and aspirations for genuine gender equality in Jordan.¹⁵

2.2.1 Quantitative Findings

In our survey, we asked respondents how important it is for them to live in a country that ensures equality between men and women. Overall, and most importantly, the vast majority of young people support gender equality, indicating a widespread recognition of the importance of equal rights.

12. Ragetlie, R., Najjar, D., & Baruah, B. (2021). Paying "Lip Service" to Gender Equality: The Hollow Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming in Jordan. *Civil Society Review*, (5), November. Retrieved from academia.edu

13. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2017). Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Jordan, CEDAW/C/JOR/CO/6, paragraph 29

14. Arab Barometer (2022). Jordan Country Report 2021-2022, p 44.

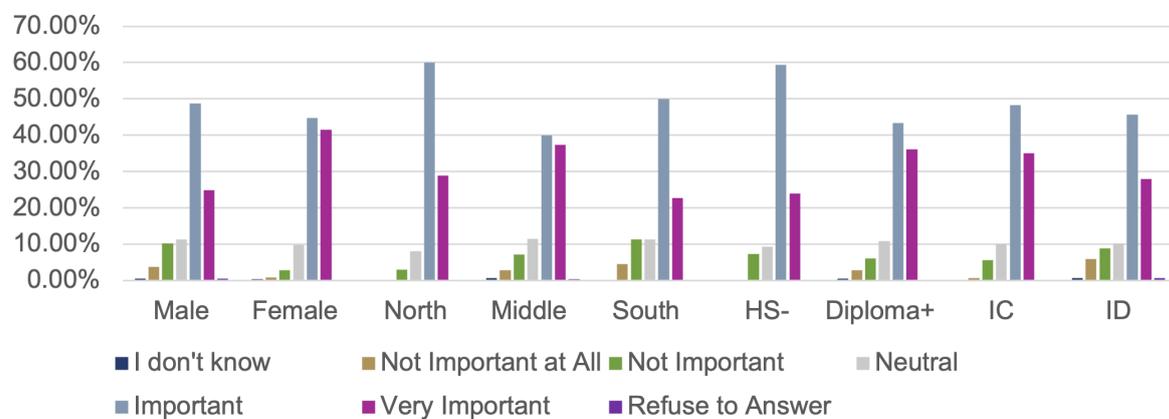
15. UN Women (2022), [Understanding Masculinities: International Men and Gender Equality Survey – Jordan](#). Last visited 10 July 2024.

Among young men, a substantial majority (nearly 74%) express a strong appreciation for gender equality. Among women, 86.2% support gender equality. Only 14.10% of males and 3.6% of females state that gender equality is not important or not important at all. The gender disparity in the outcomes is apparent in this context, reflecting contrasting viewpoints on gender equality between males and females.

Regional disparities for gender equality have been observed. Young people in the Northern region exhibit the highest level of support for gender equality, with approximately 89% rating it as either important or very important.

The study also shows differences in support for gender equality along educational divides. Both HS- and Diploma+ respondents generally find it important or very important to live in a country that ensures equality between women and men in rights. Among HS- individuals, 83.4% find it important or very important, while among Diploma+ individuals, this percentage is slightly lower at 79.4%.

Figure No. (9): Living in a country that ensures equality between women and men in rights Figure



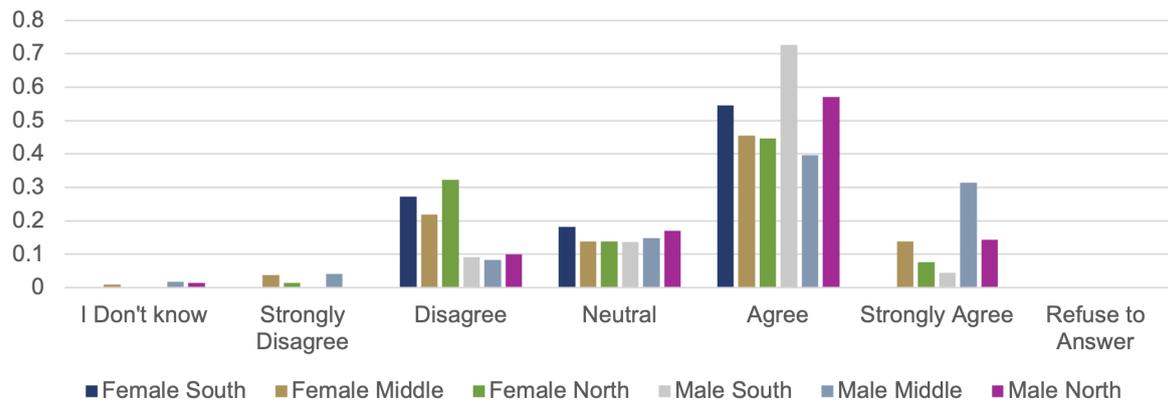
We also asked participants whether women should adhere to social customs and traditions. Here, the data also demonstrates a distinct disparity between genders. A significant majority (71.8%) of males agree that women should adhere to social customs and traditions, compared to just over half (51.2%) of females. This suggests that Jordanian men are more likely to endorse traditional gender roles. Conversely, a considerably higher percentage of females (32.2%) disagree or strongly disagree with this statement, compared to males (11.2%). This highlights a stronger tendency among females to challenge or reject strict social expectations.

Regional variations are also evident, particularly among women. Southern Jordanian females show the highest level of agreement with adhering to social norms (54.5%), while those in the North exhibit the strongest disagreement (33.8%). This suggests potential cultural or social influences at play within different regions.

Interestingly, there's a slightly higher percentage of HS- individuals (69.8%) who agree or strongly agree with the statement compared to Diploma+ individuals (66%). This suggests that individuals with higher education levels might be more likely to challenge traditional gender roles and norms.

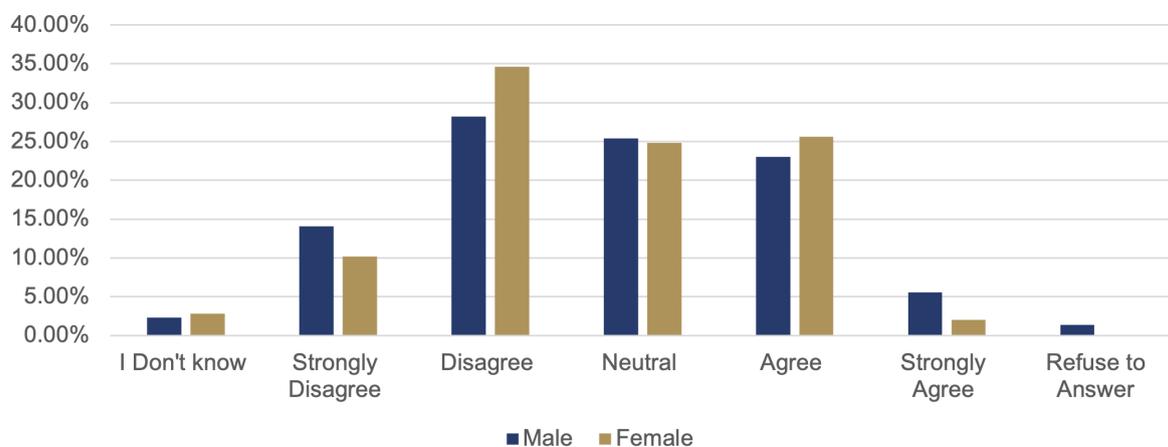
The data indicates a polarized viewpoint regarding adherence to social customs and traditions, with a substantial number of respondents showing agreement, particularly among males, while a significant percentage, particularly among females, express disagreement with this idea.

Figure No. (10) Women should always adhere to social customs and traditions.



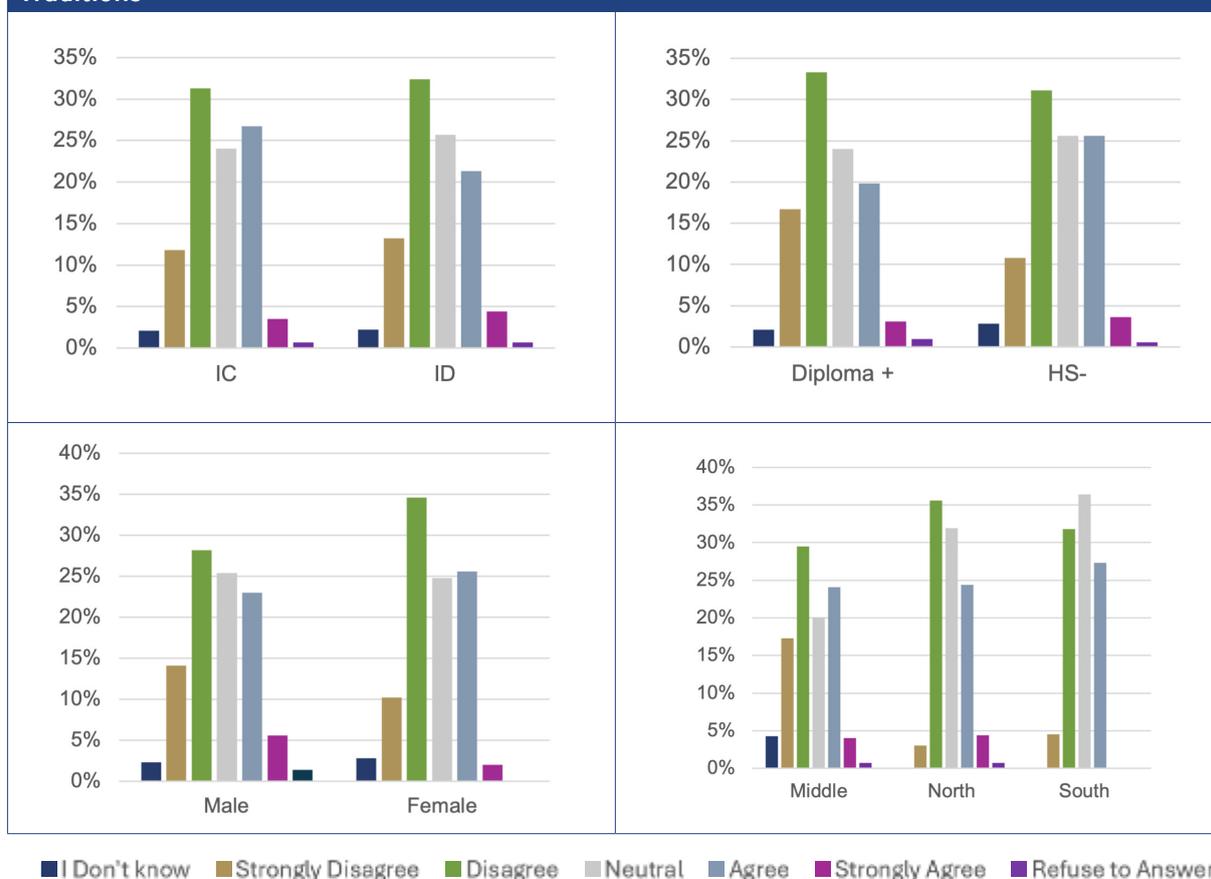
The survey also asked respondents whether they think the concept of human rights is incompatible with Jordanian values and traditions. As shown in figure No. 11, more than 42% of young people disagree or strongly disagree that there is a conflict between human rights and Jordanian values and traditions (42.3% of men and 44.8% of women). This indicates that many young people believe that human rights can be effectively reconciled with their cultural identity.

Figure No. (11): The concept of human rights is incompatible with Jordanian values and traditions - based on gender.



Upon closer examination, certain regional disparities become apparent as evident in figure no. 12. Young people from Jordan’s middle region exhibit the highest level of disagreement (46.8%). The prevalence of disagreement is lowest among Southern youths at 36.3%, with Northern youths following closely behind at 38.6%.

The level of education also correlates with differences in attitudes. There is a higher likelihood of disagreement (50%) among youths with higher education (Diploma+), suggesting that those with more education are more critical of certain cultural practices in the context of human rights. The strength of this trend diminishes slightly among individuals with a high school certificate or lower (41.9% express disagreement).

Figure No. (12): Perceptions of Compatibility Between Human Rights and Jordanian Values and Traditions

2.2.2 Qualitative Findings

In the focus groups, participants discussed both attitudes towards equal rights between men and women and the challenges posed by societal norms and traditional roles, providing qualitative insights that complement the quantitative data. Participants expressed positive attitudes towards gender equality, emphasizing the importance of equal rights for men and women. However, societal norms and traditional roles continue to present significant challenges. As one participant from Amman stated, *“We haven’t fully achieved gender equality yet; there is clear discrimination in some jobs and wages”* (FGD01, Amman, Female). Another participant from Shobak highlighted, *“There is a lot of difference, here it is better. There are people who prevent a girl from continuing her education or going to university so that nothing happens to her, and also prevent her from working because of old traditions”* (FGD05, Shobak, Female).

Participants highlighted the strong influence of societal norms and traditions in maintaining gender inequality. Many women face restrictions in education and employment due to these norms. A participant from Irbid explained, *“There are wrong customs, overdoing it. Some families say that a girl only belongs in her husband’s house even when she is 15 or 16 years old and has not seen anything in life yet”* (FGD03, Irbid, Female). Similarly, another participant from Shobak noted, *“And the issue of early marriage for any girl, they say once you reach a certain age you must get married, which is the biggest mistake”* (FGD05, Shobak, Female).

Focus group discussions provided deeper insights into attitudes toward traditional gender roles, revealing both support for and resistance to the expectation that women should adhere to social customs and traditions. Many participants, particularly women, expressed frustration

with societal expectations to prioritize family over career, noting the negative impact on their personal and professional aspirations. For example, a female participant from Amman stated, *“Society expects us to be mothers and wives first, but many of us want to pursue education and careers”* (FGD01, Amman, Female). Similarly, a male participant from Irbid said, *“Yes, family is very important, but that doesn’t mean women should give up on their ambitions”* (FGD04, Irbid, Male).

Regional variations were evident in the discussions. Women from the South generally showed more acceptance of traditional roles, consistent with the quantitative findings. A participant from Shobak noted, *“Traditions here are very strong, and women are expected to follow them”* (FGD05, Shobak, Female). In contrast, women from the North expressed stronger disagreement with these roles, echoing the higher rates of disagreement found in the quantitative data. One participant from Irbid shared, *“I feel pressured to be a good wife and mother, but I also want to achieve professional success”* (FGD03, Irbid, Female).

Participants also suggested **potential solutions**, including increasing awareness and providing more support for women’s rights. One participant from Amman suggested, *“There should be awareness campaigns to encourage people to accept different opinions and achieve gender equality”* (FGD01, Amman, Female). Another participant from Irbid added, *“More awareness and advertising, showing their services better so that people know when to seek them out”* (FGD03, Irbid, Female).

Overall, these qualitative insights reveal a nuanced perspective that contrasts the broad acceptance of traditional roles shown in the quantitative data. While many participants, particularly men, supported the idea that women should adhere to traditional roles, a significant number of women and some men advocated for more flexibility and equality in gender roles. As one participant from Shobak emphasized, *“There should be a balance between family life and work, and women’s roles shouldn’t be confined to the home only”* (FGD05, Shobak, Female). These insights underscore strong support for gender equality among youth in Jordan, yet they also highlight significant societal and cultural barriers that persist. Addressing these challenges will require targeted efforts to change societal attitudes and provide more support for women’s rights and opportunities.

2.2.3 Summing Up

The examination of gender norms and women’s rights in Jordan reveals a complex landscape influenced by both traditional expectations and evolving attitudes. Social norms entrenched in Jordanian society perpetuate biases that undervalue women’s capabilities and curtail their rights, particularly in areas of education, employment, and decision-making within households. Despite widespread acknowledgment of the importance of gender equality, evidenced by significant support among both men and women, there remains a substantial gap between these aspirations and entrenched societal norms.

The qualitative findings underscore the persistence of gender inequality, with participants highlighting challenges such as discriminatory practices in employment and education, as well as societal pressures to conform to traditional gender roles. Women, especially from more conservative regions, often face barriers to pursuing education and careers outside the home, reflecting deep-rooted cultural norms that prioritize familial duties over individual aspirations.

Conversely, there is a notable shift among some segments of Jordanian youth towards more progressive views on gender roles and rights. Many participants expressed a desire for greater gender equality, advocating for initiatives such as awareness campaigns and enhanced support for women’s education and employment. This sentiment suggests a growing awareness and readiness among the younger generation to challenge traditional norms and advocate for more inclusive societal practices.

To advance gender equality in Jordan, it is crucial to address these entrenched societal attitudes through targeted awareness programs and policy interventions. Promoting women's rights and empowerment requires not only legal reforms but also comprehensive efforts to shift cultural perceptions and support women's participation in all spheres of society. By fostering an environment that values diversity and equality, Jordan can harness the potential of all its citizens and pave the way for a more inclusive and prosperous future.

2.3 Administrative Detention and Torture

Jordan's Crime Prevention Law No. 7/1954 grants governors the authority to detain individuals administratively, enabling them to incarcerate people without the need for a trial. This legislation specifically focuses on individuals who are suspected of engaging in potential criminal activities, being associated with stolen items, or presenting a risk to the well-being of the general public. Significantly, there is a lack of autonomous judicial supervision to assess these detentions. While certain individuals perceive it as a proactive measure, specifically for women who are vulnerable to "honor killings," detractors contend that the Law is exploited.¹⁶ It is alleged that governors employ it as a means of coercing and incarcerating individuals based on weak evidence, frequently for political motives. This is alarming as data suggests that more than 25,000 individuals were subjected to administrative detention during the period of 2021-2022, prompting concerns regarding the equity of the Law and its susceptibility to abuse.¹⁷

As for torture, article 8/2 of the Jordanian Constitution prohibits all forms of torture for persons in detention, with penalties imposed according to the Penal Law ranging up to three years' imprisonment, and up to 15 years if serious injury results. However, the penal law only partially criminalizes torture, focusing primarily on extracting confessions.¹⁸

Despite these legal provisions, the National Center for Human Rights has identified significant challenges in handling torture cases. Firstly, jurisdiction for investigating and prosecuting these cases rests with the police, public prosecution and special courts, potentially compromising impartiality. Secondly, the legal framework lacks adequate provisions for compensating torture victims, leaving gaps in support and redress for those affected. The National Center for human rights has called for more substantial penalties for torture and recommended special investigators be designated to probe allegations of torture.¹⁹

Moreover, over the past three years, the Police Public Prosecution has not received any complaints related to allegations of torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of detainees in initial detention centers. However, credible international reports indicate instances of torture and mistreatment by government officials in police and security service detention centers.²⁰

It should be noted that the National Center of Human Rights reported a significant decline in the number of administrative detainees in 2021 compared to previous years. In 2021, the total number of administrative detainees was only 2,258 compared to 21,322 in 2020 and 37,853 in 2019.²¹

16. Ayman Halaseh (2020), Crime Prevention Law Between the Requirements of Administrative Control and Observance of Rights and Freedoms, Journal of Legal and Political Sciences, Scientific Center for Research and Strategic Studies - Aalborg Academy, 25 (4).

17. See for example See the National Center for Human Rights Annual report 2021, US Department of State: Jordan 2022 Human Rights Report, Human Rights Watch, World Report 2022, Jordan.

18. Article 208 of the Jordanian Penal Law No 16/1960 torture encompasses any deliberate act causing physical or mental pain or suffering to coerce a person or others, whether to obtain information or confessions, punish alleged offenses, intimidate, coerce, or for any discriminatory motive.

19. The National Center for Human Rights (2022). [Annual report](#), p 27, last visited 10 July 2024.

20. US Department of State (2023). [Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Jordan](#), last visited 10 July 2024.

21. The National Center for Human Rights (2021). [Annual Report](#), p 14, last visited 10 July 2024.

2.3.1 Quantitative Findings

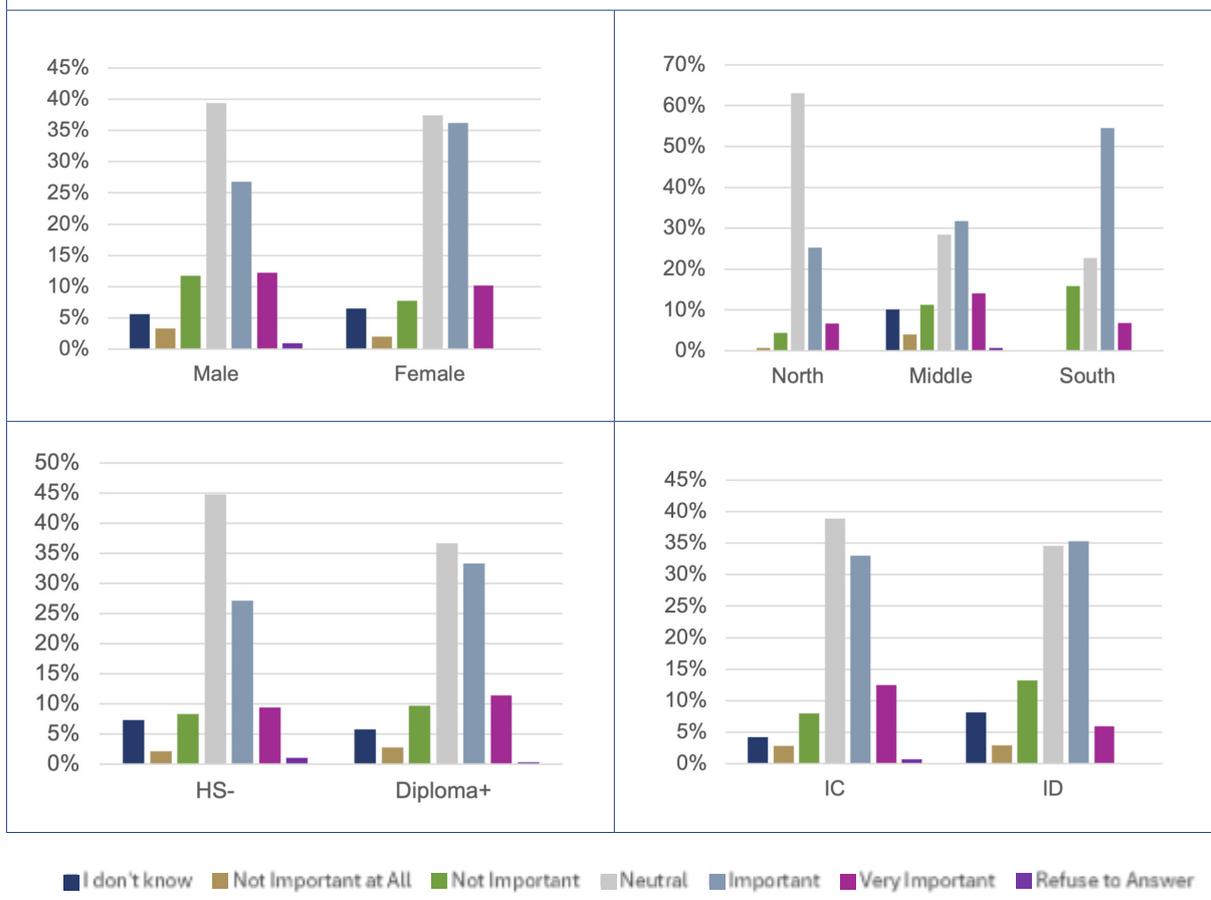
In our survey, we asked respondents about the importance of living in a country where individuals are only detained by the judicial authority, as opposed to being detained by entities like the Ministry of Interior under administrative detention. The data reveals varying levels of support for judicial authority in detention matters, with 39% of men and 46.4% of women considering it important or very important that detention is carried out solely by the judicial authority. However, it's worth noting that this is not an overwhelming majority, as less than half of the respondents in each group expressed strong support. On the other hand, a smaller proportion—15% of men and 9.7% of women—view this aspect as not important at all or not important. This suggests that while there is some support for judicial oversight in detention, particularly among women, the trend is not as clear-cut as it might initially seem. Nonetheless, the gender gap indicates that women generally show stronger support for human rights standards on detention.

Regional variations are evident, with young people in the Southern region prioritizing this aspect the most, as approximately 61.3% consider it important or very important.

There are also variations when it comes to educational level: 44.7% of Diploma+ respondents find it important or very important to live in a country where only judicial authorities detain people, compared to 36.5% of HS- individuals. This suggests that individuals with higher education levels might place a stronger emphasis on legal due process and the rule of law.

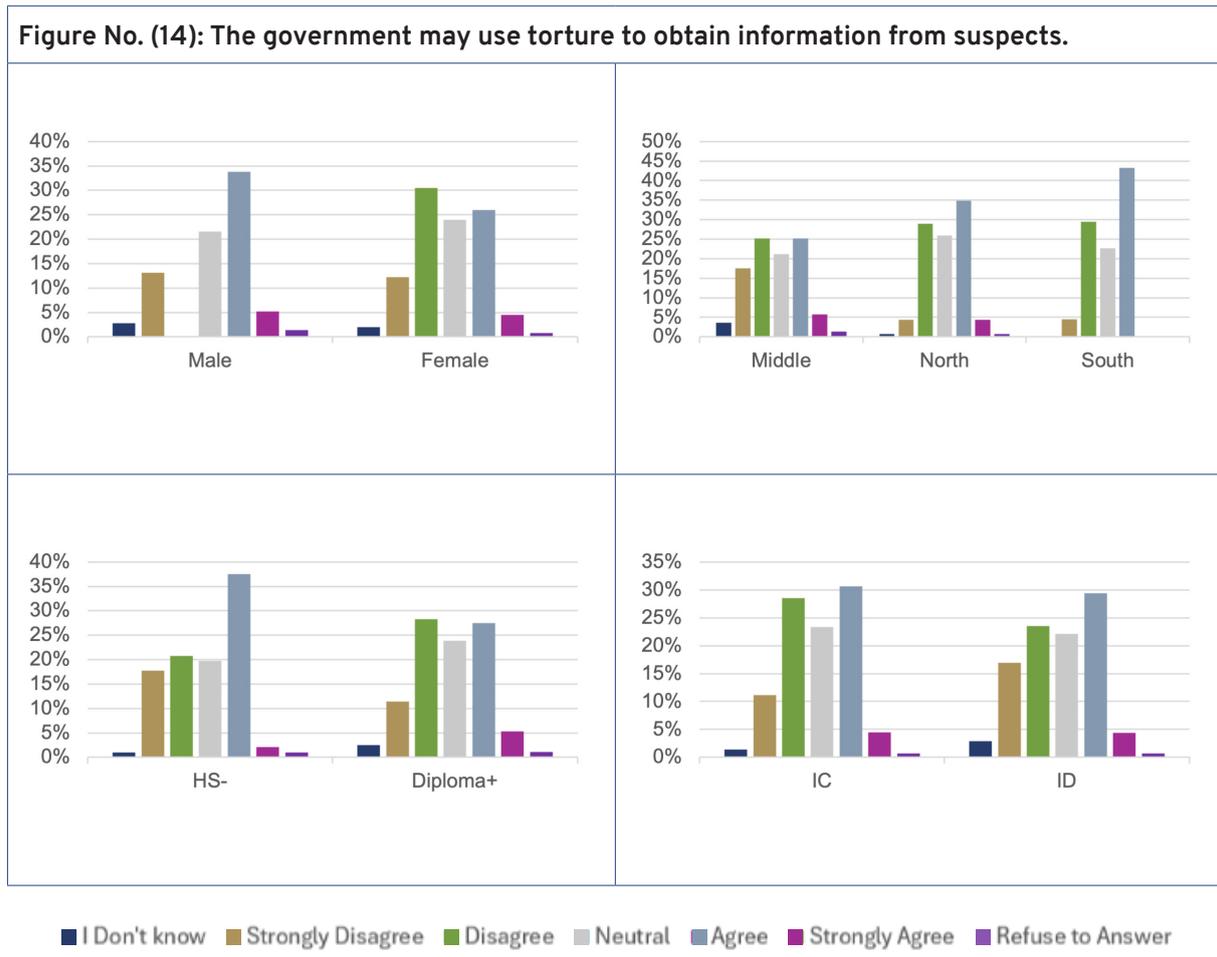
The influence of income level on the perceived importance of judicial control over detention among young individuals is minor, with a difference of 4.3% between those whose income covers expenses and those facing financial difficulties.

Figure No. (13): Living in a country where individuals are only detained by the judicial authority.



Various justifications can be provided for individuals holding a contrary viewpoint, such as a lack of awareness or the perception that this aspect is not considered a paramount concern in terms of human rights, or since administrative detention has been implemented for a very long time, people may feel that it is normal. However, the data highlights the critical need for judicial oversight in detention to uphold human rights. We also asked respondents whether the government may use torture to obtain information from suspects. Data reveals a concerning lack of consensus on the absolute prohibition of torture: Only 35.2% of males and 42.7% of females express disagreement with the statement, while 39% of males and 30.5% of females agree or strongly agree that government can use torture. Regionally, we find the highest level of disagreement among youth from the Middle region of Jordan (42.8%), while those from the South demonstrate the highest level of agreement (43.2%). Education-wise, HS- graduates are more likely to disagree (39.7%) compared to Diploma+ holders (38.5%), whereas Diploma+ holders tend to agree more (39.6% vs. 32.8% for HS-). Income levels also influence attitudes, with higher-income individuals more inclined to endorse government torture (39.6% vs. 32.8% for lower-income groups).

These findings highlight the importance of addressing the factors that contribute to support for torture and ensuring strict compliance with human rights principles, particularly among groups where tolerance for such practices seems more prevalent. They also underscore the urgent need for strong legal frameworks and educational programs aimed at promoting respect for human dignity and ethical standards in law enforcement procedures.



2.3.2 Qualitative Findings

Participants in the focus groups discussed the issue of administrative detention. Many expressed concerns about the arbitrary nature of administrative detention and the lack of judicial oversight, which they believe undermines the rule of law and human rights. One participant from Irbid highlighted the problem, stating, *“Administrative detention is a big problem because it happens without judicial oversight, exposing people to arbitrary detention”* (FGD04, Irbid, Male). Another participant from Amman emphasized the need for clear legal frameworks to prevent such practices, saying, *“There should be clear laws that prevent administrative detention and ensure a fair trial for everyone”* (FGD01, Amman, Female).

Participants emphasized the need for legal reforms to limit the powers of government entities in detaining individuals without judicial approval. They stressed the importance of protecting individuals’ rights to fair trial and due process. A participant from Irbid suggested, *“We need legal reforms to limit the powers of government entities in detaining individuals without judicial approval”* (FGD03, Irbid, Female). Echoing this sentiment, another participant from Amman remarked, *“Administrative detention violates human rights and it should stop”* (FGD02, Amman, Male).

Participants also pointed out the psychological and social impact of administrative detention on individuals and their families. The fear of arbitrary detention creates an atmosphere of insecurity and mistrust in governmental institutions. As one participant from Shobak expressed, *“The fear of arbitrary detention creates an atmosphere of insecurity and loss of trust in governmental institutions”* (FGD05, Shobak, Female).

These findings highlight the deep concerns among Jordanian youth regarding administrative detention. According to many young people, there is an urgent need for judicial reforms to protect human rights and ensure that detention practices adhere to the rule of law.

Focus group discussions also revealed diverse opinions on the use of torture by the government to obtain information from suspects, reflecting the complex and conflicting views on this issue. Many participants who opposed the use of torture emphasized the importance of human rights. For example, a participant from Amman stated, *“Torture is completely unacceptable; there are other ways to obtain information”* (FGD02, Amman, Male). Another participant from Irbid noted, *“Torture violates human rights and should stop”* (FGD04, Irbid, Female).

Participants who opposed torture argued that it is inhumane and counterproductive, suggesting that alternative methods should be used to gather information. A participant from Irbid stressed, *“We need legal reforms to ensure that torture is not used as a means to obtain information”* (FGD03, Irbid, Female). Additionally, a participant from Shobak remarked, *“Torture creates an atmosphere of fear and distrust in the government”* (FGD05, Shobak, Female).

However, some participants expressed a different view, suggesting that in certain extreme situations, the use of torture might be justified to protect national security. This reflects findings from the quantitative study, showing a significant minority in support of the use of torture. For instance, a participant from Irbid stated, *“In some emergency situations, torture might be necessary to protect the country”* (FGD04, Irbid, Male). Another participant from Shobak commented, *“If torture can save lives, it might be justified sometimes”* (FGD06, Shobak, Male).

The regional disparities evident in the quantitative data were also reflected in the focus group discussions. Participants from the South were more likely to accept the use of torture, whereas those from the Middle and North were more critical of such practices. A participant from Shobak explained, *“We understand that torture might be necessary in some cases, but there should be laws governing its use”* (FGD05, Shobak, Female). Meanwhile, a participant from Irbid emphasized, *“Torture should be completely banned, and there are other ways to protect the country”* (FGD03, Irbid, Female).

These qualitative insights highlight the ethical dilemmas and regional differences in attitudes towards the use of torture, particularly in uncovering the underlying reasons behind support for or opposition to torture.

2.3.3 Summing Up

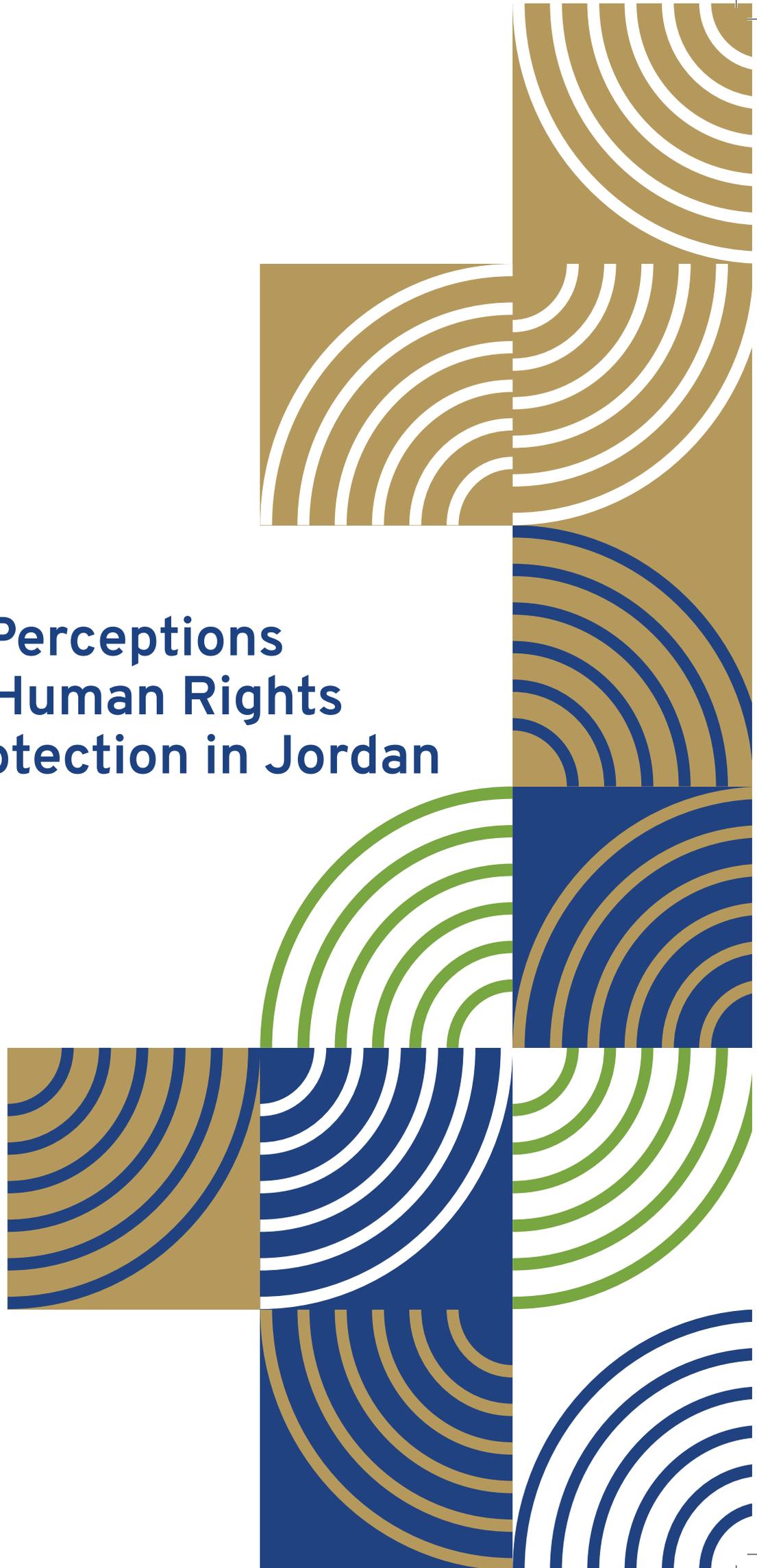
The analysis of administrative detention and torture in Jordan highlights several critical concerns and significant discrepancies in public opinion and legal practices. Jordan's Crimes Prevention Law No. 7/1954, which grants governors the authority to detain individuals administratively without trial, remains a contentious issue. The absence of independent judicial oversight raises serious concerns about the potential for abuse and arbitrary detention, as evidenced by the alarming figure of over 25,000 individuals subjected to administrative detention from 2021 to 2022. While some view this measure as protective, particularly for vulnerable women, others criticize its exploitation for political motives and coercion based on weak evidence.

Quantitative data underscores a significant lack of consensus on the use of torture, with 39% of males and 30.5% of females agreeing with its use by government authorities. Regional disparities are evident, with higher acceptance in the South and greater opposition in the Middle region. Educational attainment also influences perspectives, with higher education correlating with stronger support for judicial oversight and due process. Income levels show a minor influence, but higher-income individuals tend to endorse government torture more than lower-income individuals.

Qualitative findings from focus groups reveal deep concerns about the arbitrary nature of administrative detention and the ethical implications of torture. Participants emphasize the need for judicial reforms to protect human rights, ensure due process, and prevent the abuse of administrative detention powers. There is a strong call for clear legal frameworks and substantial penalties for torture, along with the appointment of special investigators for torture allegations.

Overall, these findings highlight the urgent need for comprehensive legal and institutional reforms to address administrative detention and torture in Jordan. Strengthening judicial oversight, enhancing legal protections, and fostering awareness of human rights principles are crucial steps towards ensuring justice and protecting the dignity of all individuals. Addressing these issues is vital for promoting a just and equitable legal system in Jordan, aligned with international human rights standards.

3. Perceptions of Human Rights Protection in Jordan



3. Perceptions of Human Rights Protection in Jordan

Building on the general overview of human rights in Jordan provided earlier, this section delves into how young people in Jordan perceive the protection of human rights, focusing on whether they feel that their rights and freedoms are adequately safeguarded, as well as their perceptions of discrimination. This section zeroes in on the specific attitudes and experiences of Jordanian youth.

Emphasis is placed on youth perspectives, highlighting their views on the effectiveness of current protections and where they see a need for improvement. These perceptions offer valuable insights into generational differences in understanding and prioritizing human rights issues, as well as the influence of factors like education and social media on their awareness and activism.

The chapter is structured as follows:

- **3.1 Perceptions of Human Rights Protection:** This subsection presents findings that reveal patterns and trends across different demographic groups, such as gender, region, and socio-economic status. It sheds light on how these factors shape perceptions of human rights protection in Jordan.
- **3.2 Perceptions of Discrimination:** This subsection shifts focus to the perceptions of how various demographic groups in Jordanian society, including youth, children, persons with disabilities, refugees, migrant workers, and religious and ethnic minorities, are treated. It presents findings on how the youth perceive the treatment of these groups.

The chapter concludes with a summary that synthesizes these findings, emphasizing the importance of understanding youth perspectives in shaping future human rights policies and reforms.

3.1 Perceptions of Human Rights Protection

Gaining insight into young people's perceptions of human rights protection in Jordan is essential for understanding how they view the effectiveness of current systems and identifying areas for potential improvement. This section examines both quantitative and qualitative results, focusing on how different demographic factors—such as gender, region, and societal influences—shape these perceptions. While this analysis sheds light on how youth perceive human rights protections, it is important to note that these perceptions do not necessarily reflect actual deficiencies in the legal or institutional frameworks. Instead, they offer valuable insights into the public's views, which can inform efforts to improve human rights awareness and advocacy.

3.1.1 Quantitative Findings

In our survey, we asked respondents about the level of human rights protection in Jordan. The analysis of data reveals interesting patterns across various demographic factors, highlighting differences in how individuals from different backgrounds perceive the state of human rights in the country. Gender disparities are evident, with 47% of men and 34.9% of women perceiving human rights protection to be high or very high. This suggests a slightly more optimistic outlook among men, while women are more inclined to view human rights protection as moderate. Such differences imply that men and women may experience human rights differently within Jordanian society.

Figure (15): In your opinion, what is the level of human rights protection in Jordan? - Females.

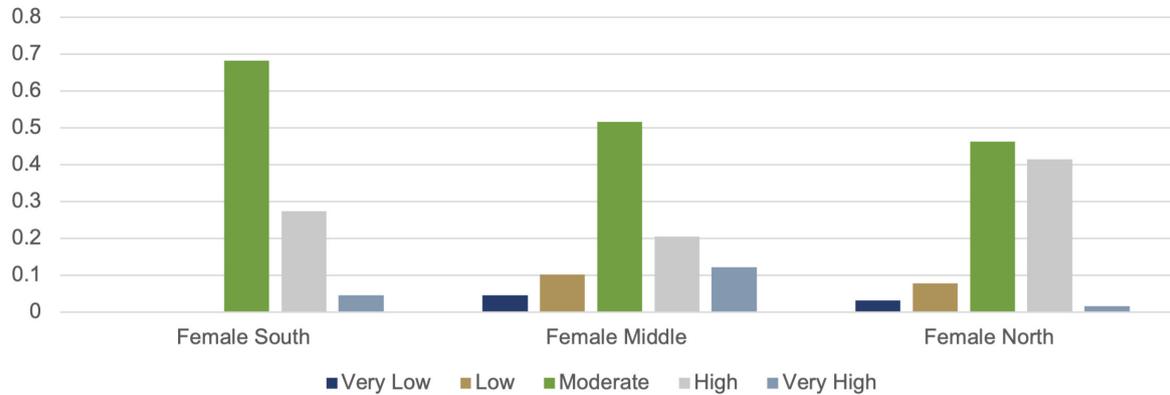
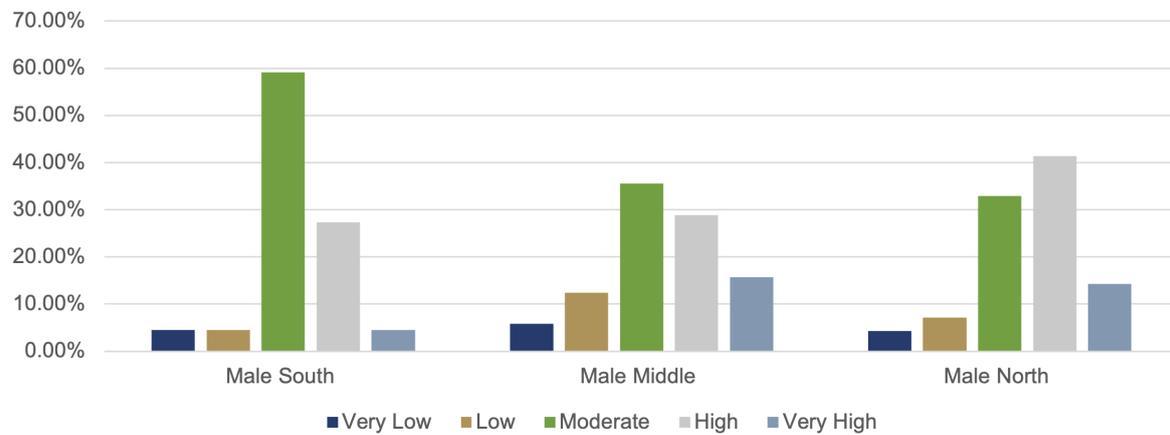
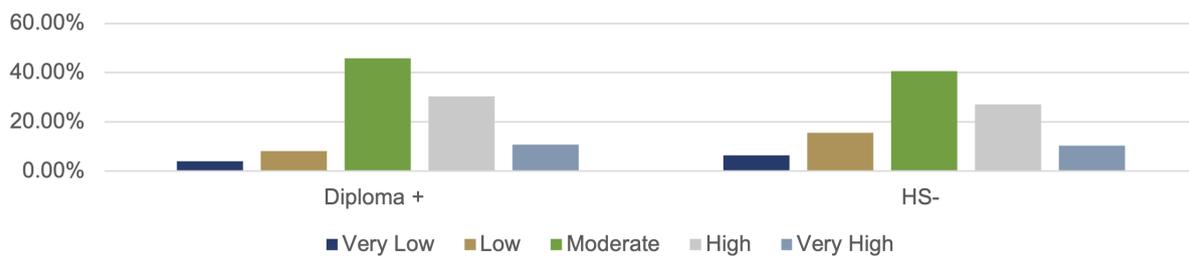


Figure (16): In your opinion, what is the level of human rights protection in Jordan? - Males.



Regional variations further underscore the complexity of perceptions. Men in the southern regions exhibit a notably heightened perception of human rights protection, with 55.7% considering it high or very high. Conversely, only 31.8% of men in the north share this view. Similarly, women’s perceptions follow a similar pattern, with the highest percentage (43.1%) believing in high or very high human rights protection in the North, and the lowest (31.8%) among women in the South.

figure (17): In your opinion, what is the level of human rights protection in Jordan? - Education.



Education level emerges as another influential factor. Diploma+ individuals tend to be slightly more optimistic while HS- individuals exhibit a slightly higher degree of skepticism.

Income level also plays a role, with higher-income individuals (ID) expressing more confidence in the high or very high protection of human rights compared to their lower-income counterparts (IC). This implies that income level may influence perceptions of human rights protection, with higher-income individuals having greater trust in the country's human rights framework.

Figure (18): What do you believe are the reasons for lack of protection of human rights? - Gender

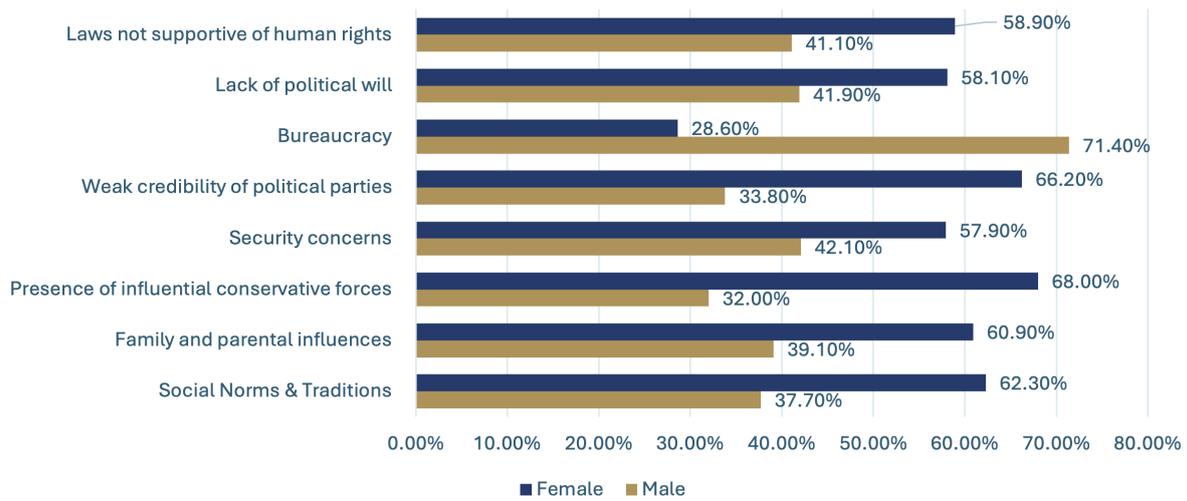
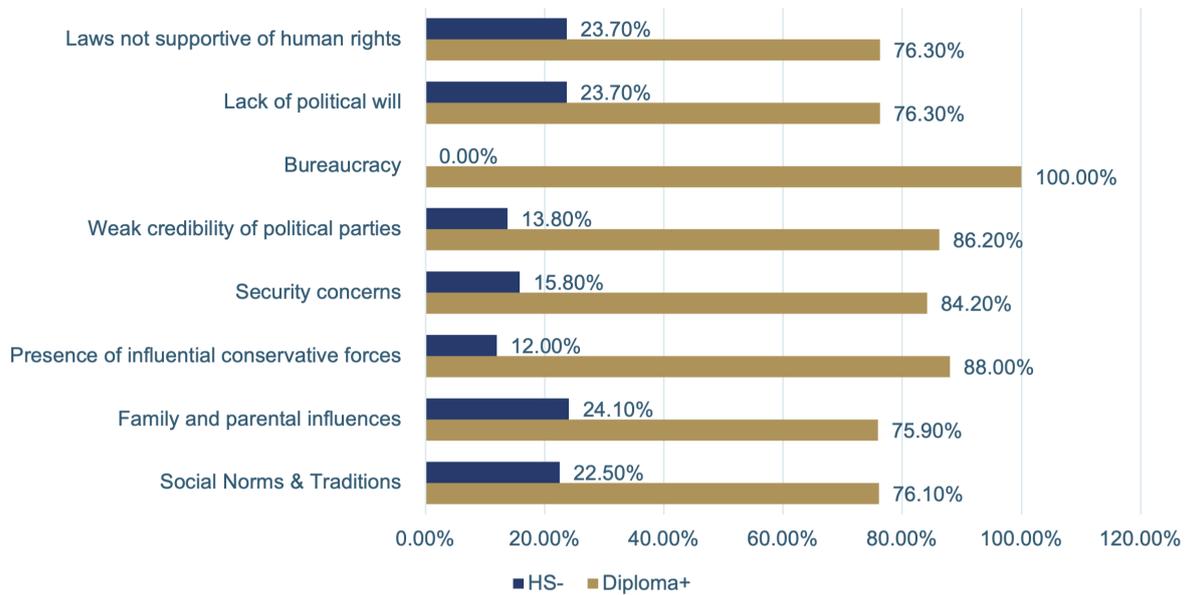
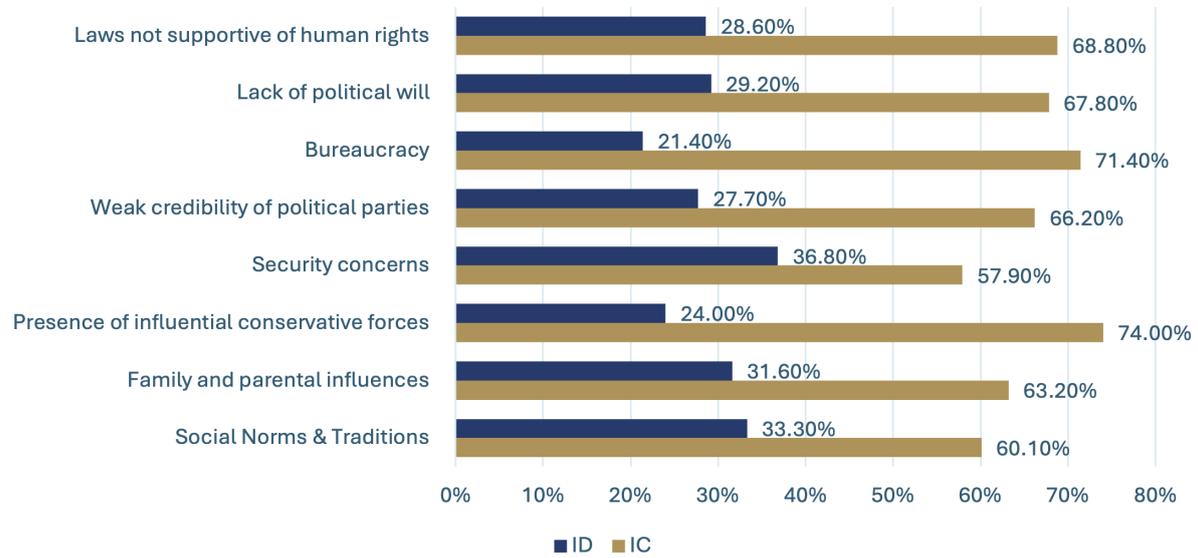


Figure (19): What do you believe are the reasons for lack of protection of human rights? - Education



Respondents who answered that they assess human rights protection in Jordan to be moderate, low, very low, unsure or don't know were asked what they thought were the reasons for this. Figures 18, 19 and 20 explain in detail the responses across different demographics.

Figure (20): What do you believe are the reasons for lack of protection of human rights?



The data provides interesting insights into the perceived reasons for the lack of protection of human rights, as identified by concerned respondents.

Social Norms & Traditions: Significantly more females (62.3%) than males (37.7%) view social norms and traditions as a reason for insufficient human rights protection. Regionally, respondents from the Middle region (66.2%) attribute it more to social norms and traditions, while those from the North region (43.1%) are less likely to do so. Individuals with higher education (Diploma+) overwhelmingly see social norms and traditions as a barrier (76.1%), in contrast to those with high school education or lower (22.5%).

Family and Parental Influences: Similarly, more females (60.9%) than males (39.1%) believe family and parental influences affect human rights protection. The Middle region (67.6%) again leads in attributing human rights issues to family influences, compared to the North region (44.7%). Individuals with higher education (75.9%) are more inclined to cite family and parental influences than those with lower education levels (24.1%). Importantly, participants may possess varying interpretations of the concept of “Family and parental influences,” as this can encompass a spectrum of concerns including limitations on mobility, educational options, or familial decision-making authority. Hence, there is a need to conduct additional qualitative research in order to delve into the intricacies of how familial dynamics influence the perceptions of human rights among young individuals in Jordan.

Presence of Influential Conservative Forces: A higher percentage of females (68.0%) compared to males (32.0%) consider influential conservative forces as a barrier. This could refer to traditional societal norms and expectations that restrict women’s roles in public life, oppose progressive changes in gender equality, or enforce strict interpretations of religious or cultural practices that limit women’s rights. For instance, conservative forces might oppose women’s participation in the workforce or leadership roles. The Middle region (75.0%) sees conservative forces as a significant factor, likely influenced by urban-rural divides where conservative values may be more entrenched, while the South region (42.9%) sees it less so. Those with higher education (88.0%) are far more likely to view conservative forces as a hindrance, possibly due to their exposure to more progressive ideas and global perspectives, compared to those with lower education (12.0%).

Security Concerns: The gender gap for security concerns is smaller, with 42.1% of males and 57.9% of females viewing it as a reason for the lack of human rights protection. The North region has the highest attribution to security concerns (71.4%), whereas the South (50.0%) and Middle (57.9%) are lower. A significant portion of respondents with higher education (84.2%) see security concerns as a reason, compared to a smaller portion with lower education (15.8%).

Bureaucracy: A notable disparity between genders becomes apparent in how bureaucracy is perceived as an obstacle to the safeguarding of human rights. Among those who view bureaucracy as a significant obstacle, 71.4% are men, while 28.6% are women. This suggests that men may encounter more bureaucratic challenges when engaging with legal or social service systems. Education also appears to be a crucial factor in how people perceive bureaucracy. Interestingly, in this study, none of the participants with a high school diploma or lower (HS-) reported bureaucracy as a significant obstacle. Conversely, all participants with diplomas or higher education (Diploma+) viewed bureaucracy as a hindrance. This finding suggests that education may equip individuals with the knowledge and awareness to recognize how bureaucratic processes can impede human rights.

Overall, the data highlights notable gender differences, with females more likely to attribute the lack of human rights protection to social norms, family influences, and conservative forces. Regional variations suggest that the Middle region is particularly sensitive to these factors, while higher education consistently correlates with a greater awareness of these barriers.

3.1.2 Qualitative Findings

Focus group discussions provided a deeper understanding of Jordanian youth's perceptions of human rights protection, highlighting various experiences and concerns that complement the quantitative findings. Participants expressed a range of views on the state of human rights protection in Jordan, often reflecting their personal experiences and observations. Many voiced concerns about the inconsistent application of human rights protections, particularly regarding gender and regional disparities.

Women's Rights and Regional Disparities: One participant from Amman noted that *"Women's rights are not adequately protected and are often overlooked in legal and social issues"* (FGD01, Amman, Female). Another participant from Irbid commented, *"There is progress in some areas, but we face significant challenges in protecting human rights in rural areas"* (FGD04, Irbid, Male). These comments reflect a broader sentiment that while there have been improvements, significant challenges remain, particularly in less urbanized areas.

Regional Disparities in Human Rights Protections: Participants from the South highlighted the disparity in human rights protection between urban and rural areas, noting that rural communities often feel neglected. A participant from Shobak stated, *"The challenges are greater in villages where rights and services do not reach in the same way as they do in cities"* (FGD05, Shobak, Female). This observation underscores the regional differences in perceptions of human rights protections.

Gender Differences in Perceptions: Gender differences in perceptions were also evident in the discussions. Female participants frequently mentioned feeling more vulnerable to rights violations, particularly in terms of personal safety and access to justice. One participant from Amman shared, *"Many women feel unsafe and unable to secure their full rights due to discrimination and bias"* (FGD01, Amman, Female). These insights highlight the specific challenges faced by women in Jordan.

The Role of Education in Shaping Perceptions: Participants discussed the role of education in shaping their perceptions of human rights. Those with higher education levels expressed more awareness and critical views regarding the effectiveness of human rights protections. A

participant from Irbid noted, *“Higher education provides us with a better understanding of our rights and how they should be protected”* (FGD03, Irbid, Female). This suggests that education can play a crucial role in enhancing awareness and advocacy for human rights.

Impact of Socio-Economic Status on Perceptions: Income level was another factor influencing perceptions, with higher-income participants expressing more confidence in the protection of human rights. They attributed this to better access to resources and information. A participant from Amman explained, *“People with more resources can better defend their rights”* (FGD02, Amman, Male). This indicates that socio-economic status significantly impacts one’s ability to perceive and advocate for their rights.

The Role of Social Norms and Traditions: Participants consistently identified social norms and traditions as significant barriers to human rights protection. Many pointed out that deeply ingrained cultural practices often perpetuate discrimination and hinder progress. For instance, one participant from Amman mentioned, *“Social traditions hinder much progress in the field of human rights”* (FGD01, Amman, Female).

Influence of Family and Parental Pressures: Family and parental influences were also highlighted as critical factors. Participants noted that familial expectations and pressures often limit individuals’ freedoms and reinforce traditional roles, especially for women. A participant from Irbid remarked, *“Family pressures make it difficult for us to live our lives freely”* (FGD03, Irbid, Male).

Resistance from Conservative Forces: The presence of influential conservative forces within society was another major concern. These forces often resist changes that promote human rights, preferring to maintain the status quo. As one participant from Shobak expressed, *“Conservative forces prefer to maintain the status quo and do not support change”* (FGD05, Shobak, Female).

Security Concerns as a Justification for Rights Restrictions: Security concerns were frequently cited as a justification for restricting human rights. Participants noted that the government’s focus on security often comes at the expense of personal freedoms. A participant from Amman stated, *“Security concerns are used as an excuse to limit human rights”* (FGD02, Amman, Male).

Criticism of Political Parties and Bureaucratic Obstacles: Political parties were also criticized. Many participants felt that political parties lack the trust and capability to advocate effectively for human rights. One participant from Irbid commented *“Political parties do not have enough credibility to defend human rights”* (FGD04, Irbid, Male). Additionally, bureaucracy was seen as a significant obstacle, with participants highlighting how it complicates and delays the implementation of human rights initiatives. A participant from Shobak noted, *“Bureaucracy hinders the implementation of human rights initiatives”* (FGD06, Shobak, Male).

Lack of Political Will and Supportive Legal Frameworks: Lack of political will and laws not supportive of human rights were also major themes. Participants emphasized that without strong political commitment and supportive legal frameworks, progress in human rights protection would remain limited. A participant from Irbid remarked, *“Without strong political will and supportive laws, progress in human rights protection will remain limited”* (FGD03, Irbid, Female).

These qualitative insights reveal the deep-rooted societal, familial, and structural challenges that hinder the protection of human rights in Jordan. They point to the need for comprehensive reforms that address these issues at multiple levels, from cultural and familial attitudes to political and legal structures and systems.

Overall, these qualitative insights reveal a varied perspective on human rights protection among Jordanian youth. While some express optimism and recognize progress, others highlight significant gaps and challenges, particularly related to gender inequality, regional disparities, education, and income levels. These discussions underscore the pressing need to address these issues to not only improve perceptions but also bring tangible improvements

to human rights protection in Jordan. They highlight the deep-rooted societal, familial, and structural challenges that hinder the protection of human rights in the country, pointing to the need for comprehensive reforms that address these issues at multiple levels—from cultural and familial attitudes to political and legal structures and systems.

3.1.3 Summing Up

An examination of the perceptions regarding the safeguarding of human rights in Jordan uncovers intricate and subtle observations across different demographic factors. The results emphasize notable disparities in the way various groups perceive the condition of human rights in the country, emphasizing the necessity for focused interventions and reforms.

Gender disparities are pronounced, with men generally exhibiting a more optimistic outlook on human rights protection compared to women. This suggests that men and women experience human rights differently within Jordanian society. Women frequently mentioned feeling more vulnerable to rights violations, particularly concerning personal safety and access to justice. Addressing these gender-specific challenges is crucial for ensuring equitable human rights protection.

Regional variations further illustrate the complexity of perceptions. Men in the southern regions have a significantly heightened perception of human rights protection, while those in the north and middle regions are more critical. Women's perceptions follow a similar pattern, with noticeable regional disparities. These findings highlight the need for region-specific strategies to address human rights issues effectively.

The survey data identifies several key factors that respondents believe contribute to the lack of human rights protection in Jordan. Social norms and traditions, especially among females and higher-educated individuals, are significant barriers, as deeply ingrained cultural practices often perpetuate discrimination and hinder progress. Family and parental influences critically shape individuals' perceptions and experiences of human rights, with familial expectations and pressures particularly limiting freedoms for women. Influential conservative forces resist changes that promote human rights, preferring to maintain the status quo, especially in certain regions and demographic groups. The government's focus on security frequently justifies restricting human rights, reflecting a tension between national security and personal freedoms. Additionally, bureaucratic inefficiencies complicate and delay the implementation of human rights initiatives, a challenge particularly noted by higher-educated individuals who are more aware of these bureaucratic obstacles.

Focus group discussions provide a deeper understanding of these issues, revealing personal experiences and societal factors underpinning perceptions. Participants emphasized the need for comprehensive reforms that address societal, familial, and structural challenges at multiple levels.

Significant challenges exist in protecting women's rights, particularly in less urbanized areas. Rural communities often feel neglected, perceiving human rights protections to be weaker compared to urban areas. Higher education plays a crucial role in enhancing awareness and advocacy for human rights. Additionally, socio-economic status significantly impacts one's ability to perceive and advocate for their rights, with higher-income individuals having greater confidence in their ability to defend their rights.

In conclusion, the findings emphasize the urgent need to consider the perceptions of Jordanian youth when developing reforms aimed at improving human rights protection. While our study highlights what young people believe are the main obstacles, these perceptions offer valuable insights into the areas where they feel most impacted. Addressing these perceived challenges, whether they are actual or not, can help build trust and engagement among youth, which is essential for fostering a more equitable and just society in Jordan.

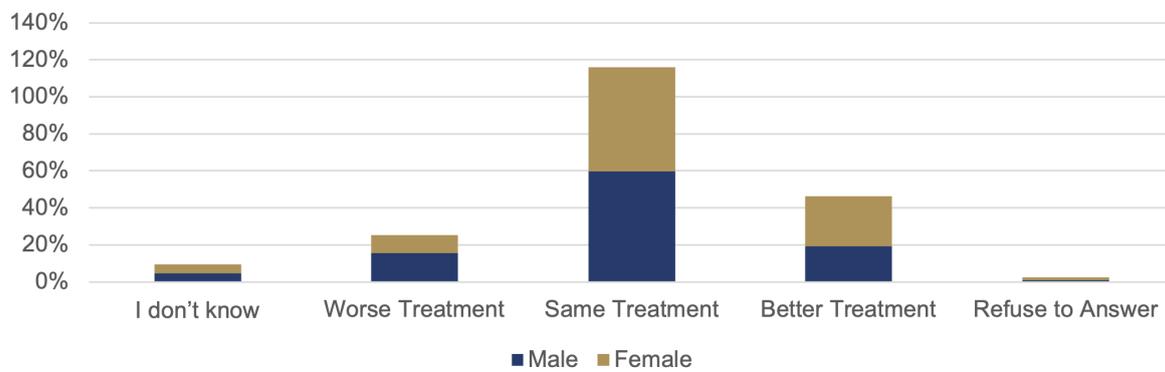
3.2 Perceptions of Discrimination

This section explores the perceptions of different demographic groups in Jordanian society, using survey data and qualitative analysis. The study examines how discrimination is perceived among various groups, including youth, children, women, individuals with disabilities, the elderly, refugees, migrant workers, ethnic minorities, and religious minorities.

3.2.1 Quantitative Findings

This section analyzes survey findings on how Jordanians perceive the treatment of various demographic groups, including youth, children, persons with disabilities, refugees, migrant workers, and religious and ethnic minorities. The analysis focuses on whether respondents believe these groups experience better, the same, or worse treatment compared to others.

Figure No. (21): Perceived treatment of Youth



Youth: Majority of males (59.6%) and females (56.5%) perceive that youth receive the same treatment, with a notable portion of males (19.2%) and females (27.2%) believing they receive better treatment. A minority of both genders (15.5% of men and 9.8% of women) perceive youth as receiving worse treatment. It is possible that these survey results reflect the recent implementation of the Election Law and the Political Parties Law, which emphasize greater youth involvement in politics and may have influenced public perceptions of youth treatment in Jordan.

In 2022, Jordan adopted two new laws, namely the Election Law and the Political Parties Law, with the objective of enhancing the involvement of youth in the political sphere. The Election Law reduces the minimum age requirement for candidacy from 30 to 25 years old, thereby potentially enabling a greater number of young individuals to seek political office.²² The Political Parties Law mandates that a minimum of 20% of a party's initial members must consist of youth, thereby guaranteeing the inclusion of youth representation in party frameworks.²³ These laws demonstrate a concentration on the participation of young people in Jordanian politics. Their efficacy in attaining this objective will be contingent upon factors such as public awareness campaigns and a conducive environment that fosters youth engagement.

Children: A significant portion of both males (45.5%) and females (45.9%) believe that children receive better treatment, while nearly half of males (45.1%) and females (41.1%) perceive their treatment as the same. Few respondents across genders (5.5% of men and 5.3% of women) believe children receive worse treatment.

22. Law No.4/2022

23. Law No. 7/2022

The Rights of the Child Law was enacted in 2022, encompassing various safeguards for children such as the entitlement to education, the authorization for teachers and other accountable individuals to report instances of abuse, and the provision of healthcare coverage for all children in Jordan. Children are entitled to various rights under the law, including access to free primary and emergency healthcare, legal assistance, protection from economic exploitation, compulsory education, a safe traffic environment, and other rights.²⁴ The implementation of this law may have influenced these survey results, shaping respondents' perceptions of the treatment of children in Jordan.

Jordan's Child Rights Law has been criticized for its limited reach. Key issues like early marriage, rights of children born out of wedlock, and corporal punishment remain unaddressed. The law also lacks provisions for free legal aid for children in legal trouble. This raises questions about the law's effectiveness in achieving its goals, despite being introduced to strengthen child protection in Jordan.²⁵

Women: While a considerable percentage of males (45.5%) and females (34.6%) believe women receive better treatment, a smaller portion of males (39%) and females (52%) perceive their treatment as the same. Only a minority of respondents (3.8% of men and 8.5% of women) perceive women as receiving worse treatment.

Jordan has made strides towards gender equality through recent legal reforms. Laws now mandate minimum quotas for women in political parties and on electoral lists²⁶, while requiring their inclusion on boards of companies with government ties²⁷. The Labor Law has been adjusted to incentivize female participation in the workforce.²⁸ In 2017, activists and coalitions successfully reformed the Penal law of 1960 by eliminating several discriminatory articles. This included the removal of article 98, which previously allowed for a lesser penalty for perpetrators of "honor killings". Additionally, article 308, which allowed men to avoid punishment for rape by marrying their victims, was also abolished.

Persons with Disability: A majority of both males (60.6%) and females (54.5%) perceive persons with disabilities as receiving better treatment, while a notable minority of males (28.2%) and females (32.1%) perceive their treatment as the same. Few respondents believe this group receives worse treatment (6.6% of men and 6.1% of women).

Other Groups: Perceptions of treatment for various groups reveal nuanced views among respondents. Similar proportions of males (46%) and females (37.8%) believe the elderly receive better treatment, with slightly fewer perceiving their treatment as the same (43.2% of men and 45.9% of women), and a small minority (6.6% of men and 11% of women) perceiving worse treatment.

Regarding refugees, nearly half of both males (46.9%) and females (54.9%) believe they receive the same treatment, while a significant portion perceive their treatment as better (23.5% of men and 15% of women), and a substantial minority (21.1% of both genders) perceive worse treatment. For migrant workers, a considerable portion of both males (51.2%) and females (62.2%) perceive the same treatment, with notable minorities perceiving better treatment (23.9% of men and 14.2% of women), and few respondents believing worse treatment (18.3% of men and 14.2% of women).

24. Law 17/2022.

25. Save the Children Jordan, SoS Jordan and Information and Research Center King Hussein Foundation (2023), [Submission to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations Universal Periodic Review of Jordan \(Fourth Cycle, Jan. - Feb. 2024\) - 45th Session](#), last visited 17 July 2024.

26. The Political Parties Law No. 7. of 2022 established a 20% quota for women and a 20% quota for youth between the ages of 18 and 35 to create political parties, both of which are expected to increase the representation of women among young voters. (Article 11). The Election Law No. (4) of 2022 increased the number of seats allocated to women on the "quota" track from 15-18, including one general electoral district at the level of the Kingdom. Additionally, they were permitted to run on the competitive track.

27. Article 135 and 151, Companies Law No. 22/1997

28. Labor Law No. 8/1996 as amended in 2019 and 2023. These amendments include equal pay, maternity protection regulations, flexible work arrangements and financial benefits to procure care for their children.

Ethnic minorities are perceived by the majority of both males (61%) and females (70.7%) as receiving the same treatment, with a notable minority perceiving better treatment (19.2% of men and 6.5% of women), and a small percentage perceiving worse treatment (8.5% of men and 7.7% of women).

Similarly, religious minorities are perceived by the majority of males (64.8%) and females (77.2%) as receiving the same treatment, with a significant minority perceiving better treatment (22.1% of men and 11% of women), and a very small percentage perceiving worse treatment (3.3% of men and 1.6% of women).

Figure (22): Perceived treatment of Refugees

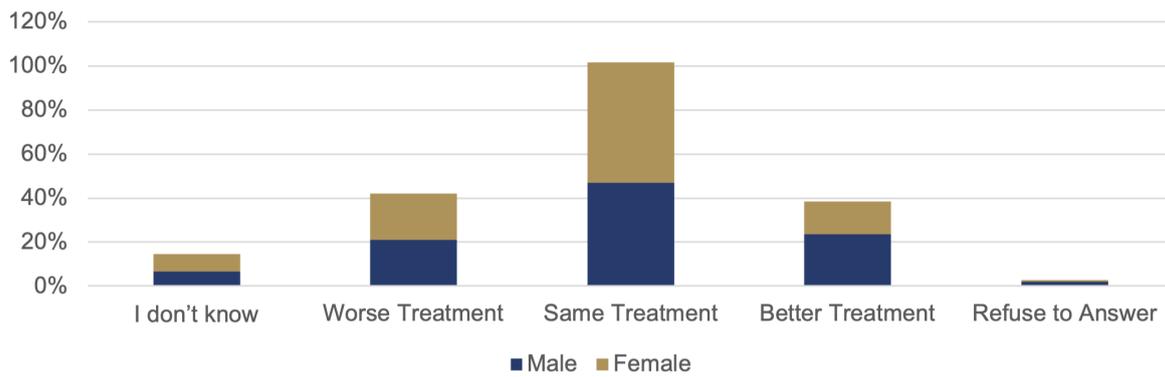


Figure (23): Perceived treatment of Migrant Workers

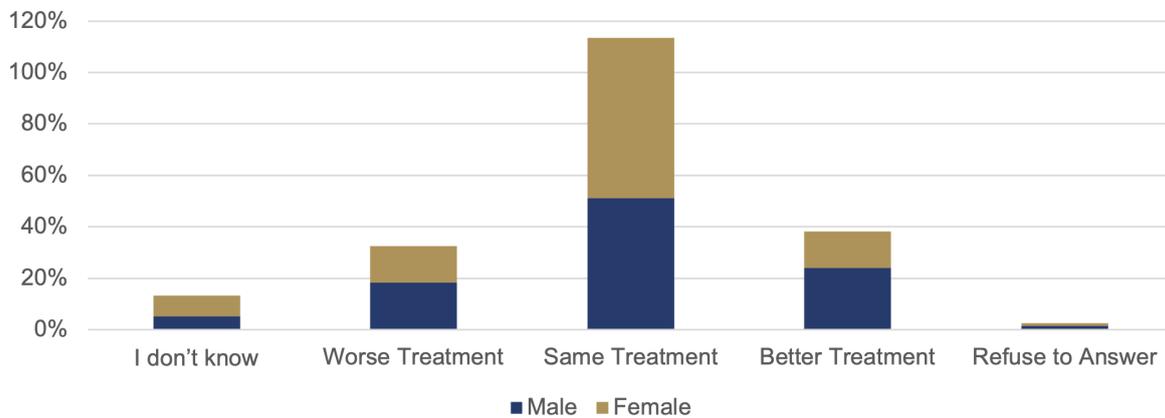
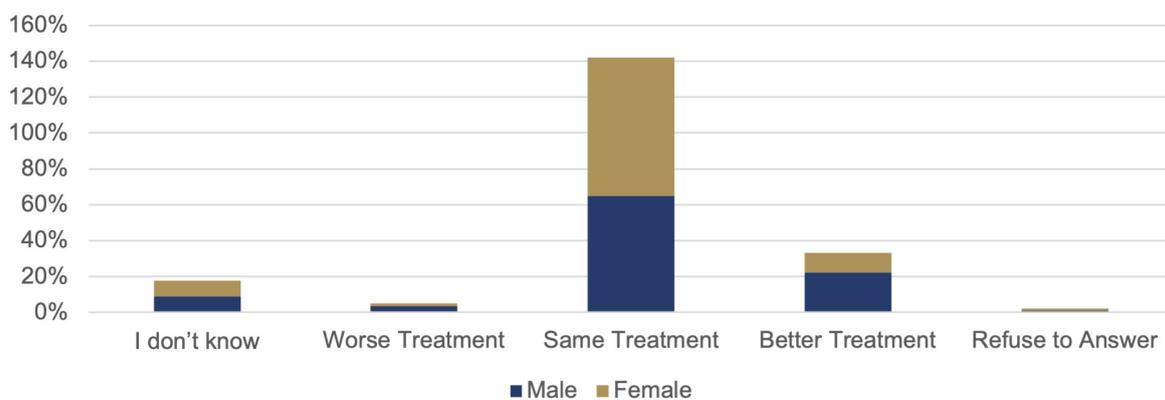


Figure (24): Perceived treatment of Religious Minorities



3.2.2 Qualitative Findings

Gaining insight into individuals' perceptions of discrimination is essential for evaluating the level of social inclusion and fairness in any given society. In Jordan, different demographic groups encounter varying levels of treatment, influenced by cultural norms, legal structures, and societal attitudes. This section provides insights into the ongoing obstacles encountered by various groups in Jordanian society, based on qualitative data obtained from focus group discussions.

Youth: Participants highlighted that while youth are often seen as the future of the country, they face significant challenges in terms of employment and social recognition. A participant from Amman noted, "Youth are seen as the future, but we face many barriers to finding good jobs and being taken seriously in society" (FGD01, Amman, Female). Another participant from Shobak mentioned, "*There is a lot of talk about empowering youth, but in reality, we don't have many opportunities to prove ourselves*" (FGD05, Shobak, Male).

Children: Focus group participants generally agreed that children are well-cared for in Jordan, though there were concerns about the quality of education and opportunities for extracurricular activities. A participant from Irbid expressed, "Children are treated well, but we need to focus more on providing quality education and activities that can help them develop" (FGD03, Irbid, Female). Another participant added, "*The new Children's Rights Law has helped, but implementation is key*" (FGD01, Amman, Female).

Women: Participants discussed the dual nature of perceptions regarding women's treatment. While some felt that women are treated with respect and courtesy, others highlighted ongoing gender inequality in professional and social contexts. One participant from Amman remarked, "Women are respected in public, but we still face significant challenges in the workplace and at home" (FGD02, Amman, Female). Another participant from Irbid noted, "*There is a lot of focus on women's rights, but traditional gender roles are still very strong*" (FGD03, Irbid, Female).

Persons with Disabilities: Focus group participants recognized improvements in the treatment of persons with disabilities but pointed out areas that still need attention, such as accessibility and inclusion in education and employment. A participant from Shobak mentioned, "*There have been improvements, but people with disabilities still face a lot of challenges in accessing public services and finding jobs*" (FGD06, Shobak, Male). Another participant added, "We need to ensure that schools and workplaces are inclusive and accessible" (FGD01, Amman, Female).

Elderly: Participants generally felt that the elderly are respected and well-treated in Jordanian society due to strong familial bonds and respect for elders. However, some highlighted the need for better healthcare and support services. A participant from Irbid shared, "The elderly are respected, but we need to do more to support them, especially in terms of healthcare and social services" (FGD03, Irbid, Female). Another participant noted, "*There should be more programs to help the elderly stay active and engaged in the community*" (FGD05, Shobak, Female).

Refugees: The focus groups revealed mixed perceptions regarding refugees. Some participants felt that refugees receive adequate support from international organizations, while others believed that they face significant challenges and discrimination. A participant from Amman stated, "*Refugees receive a lot of support from international organizations, but they also face a lot of discrimination and challenges in integrating into society*" (FGD02, Amman, Male). Another participant added, "*There is sympathy for refugees, but also a sense of competition for resources and opportunities*" (FGD01, Amman, Female).

Migrant workers: Participants expressed concerns about the treatment of migrant workers, particularly regarding labor rights and working conditions. A participant from Shobak commented, “*Migrant workers often face harsh working conditions and lack of legal protections*” (FGD06, Shobak, Male). Another participant from Irbid noted, “*There needs to be more oversight and enforcement of labor laws to protect migrant workers*” (FGD03, Irbid, Female). This shows awareness and sympathy among youth towards migrant workers’ situations and conditions in Jordan.

Ethnic Minorities: In contrast to quantitative results, focus group participants highlighted the relative invisibility of ethnic minorities in discussions about discrimination, suggesting that more attention needs to be paid to their experiences. A participant from Amman said, “*Ethnic minorities are often overlooked in discussions about discrimination. We need to recognize their unique challenges*” (FGD01, Amman, Female). Another participant from Shobak added, “*There should be more efforts to include ethnic minorities in social and political life*” (FGD05, Shobak, Female).

Religious Minorities: Participants in the focus groups discussed the generally positive treatment of religious minorities but also noted instances of subtle discrimination. A participant from Irbid remarked, “*Religious minorities are generally treated well, but there can be subtle forms of discrimination that affect their daily lives*” (FGD03, Irbid, Female). Another participant from Amman added, “*There needs to be more dialogue and understanding to ensure that religious minorities feel fully included in society*” (FGD02, Amman, Male). This shows a deeper understanding of the nuances of discrimination and highlights the need for continued efforts to address and mitigate subtle forms of bias and exclusion.

3.2.3 Summing Up

The qualitative and quantitative findings offer a comprehension of how various demographic groups are perceived in Jordanian society, illustrating both positive advancements and ongoing obstacles in social inclusion and equality.

Youth reflect a diverse landscape of perceptions and challenges across various demographic groups. Youth, seen as crucial to the nation’s future, face significant hurdles in employment and societal recognition. Recent legislative reforms aimed at boosting youth involvement in politics signal a proactive approach, contingent on robust public awareness and supportive environments for engagement.

Children benefit from a generally positive outlook underpinned by the 2022 Children’s Rights Law. However, concerns linger regarding education quality and the full implementation of protective measures, necessitating ongoing efforts to ensure comprehensive child welfare.

Women experience a dual narrative: while legal reforms have advanced gender equality, social norms and persistent challenges in professional and familial domains highlight ongoing struggles against traditional gender roles. Achieving women’s autonomy requires continued efforts to dismantle entrenched biases.

Persons with disabilities have seen improvements in treatment, yet accessibility barriers persist in education and employment. Enforcing inclusive policies and creating supportive environments remain critical to addressing these challenges.

Elderly individuals generally receive respect and familial support, but there’s a recognized need for enhanced healthcare and social services to ensure their continued well-being and active participation in society.

Perceptions of refugees and migrant workers vary widely, reflecting humanitarian empathy alongside concerns over resource allocation and integration challenges. Continued advocacy and policy refinement are essential to safeguarding their rights and enhancing social integration.

According to the discussions held in focus groups, ethnic and religious minorities often feel marginalized in discussions about discrimination despite generally positive societal perceptions. Addressing subtle biases through increased awareness and inclusive efforts is crucial for fostering genuine societal inclusivity.

The survey findings, while focused on daily life perceptions rather than governmental interactions, underscore the multifaceted nature of societal attitudes towards different groups in Jordan. Legislative reforms, such as quota laws for youth, women, and minorities, have shown promise in shifting perceptions positively. However, entrenched social norms, economic disparities, and regional variations continue to influence these perceptions, necessitating ongoing efforts to promote equity and inclusivity across Jordanian society.

4. Knowledge of Human Rights Institutions and Organizations



4. Knowledge of Human Rights Institutions and Organizations

Jordan hosts several independent institutions tasked with human rights oversight, addressing both general concerns and specific issues affecting groups such as children, persons with disabilities, and women. Alongside these government bodies and independent institutions, numerous national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) actively operate in Jordan, advocating for and protecting human rights across various sectors. These NGOs complement state institutions by providing vital support in areas such as legal aid, awareness campaigns, and policy advocacy.

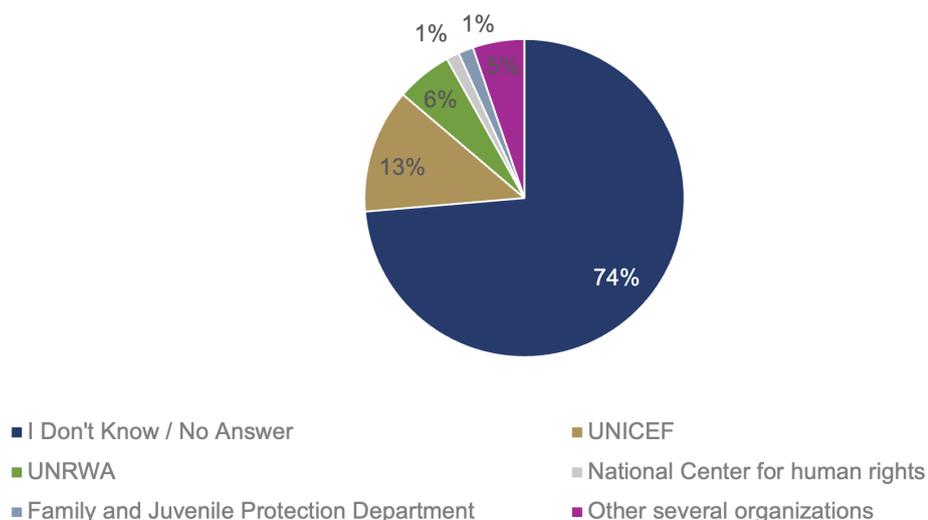
This section investigates the perspectives of Jordanian youth regarding human rights institutions and organizations, both at the national and international levels, using a combination of quantitative surveys and qualitative focus groups. It examines the knowledge Jordanian youth have about these actors and their confidence in the activities of these institutions. The findings reveal significant deficiencies in young people's understanding of the responsibilities and operations of human rights organizations, as well as varying levels of confidence influenced by both national and global circumstances. Notably, the section highlights increasing skepticism among young Jordanians towards international human rights organizations, particularly due to recent conflicts in the region, leading to a more critical assessment of their involvement and impact.

At the same time, the findings send a clear message to national institutions about the need for greater interaction with youth to raise awareness of their mandates and functions, suggesting a lack of engagement with this critical demographic.

4.1 Quantitative Findings

The quantitative survey questions explored young people's familiarity with specific institutions and their level of trust in these entities. The survey results highlight a concerning lack of awareness among Jordanian youth regarding institutions and organizations dedicated to human rights, both on national and international levels. As shown in figure 25, a staggering 74% of respondents were unable to name such entities.

Figure No. (25): If you are familiar with national or international human rights institutions, can you share some of their names?



For those who could provide names (26%), mentions included UNICEF, UNRWA, the National Center for Human Rights, and the Family and Juvenile Protection Department. It should be noted that 5% of the respondents were not able to give accurate names of such organizations.

When specifically asked about their awareness of the functions of various human rights entities, the survey revealed significant gaps in knowledge among respondents. A striking 66.7% admitted to having no familiarity with the National Center for Human Rights, while over half, at 51.2%, were unaware of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Additionally, 36.4% of participants lacked knowledge regarding the Independent Election Commission.

Among these entities, the Independent Election Commission stood out as the most recognized, likely due to its significant role in parliamentary and local elections.

Among those respondents who claimed familiarity with these institutions, the level of trust in their work varied. Approximately 34.6% expressed a high or very high level of trust in the National Center for Human Rights, while 27.3% expressed similar trust in the Anti-Corruption Commission. Similarly, 29.5% conveyed a high or very high level of trust in the Independent Election Commission.

Those who declined to answer these questions ranged from 9.8% for the National Center for Human Rights to 3.1% for the Independent Election Commission.

When queried about their awareness of international organizations focused on human rights and labor issues, the responses revealed an overwhelming lack of knowledge among respondents. A staggering 76% indicated no familiarity with the International Labor Organization, while over half, 54.7%, were unaware of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Similarly, 76.5% lacked knowledge of Amnesty International, a renowned human rights advocacy group. The relatively high level of awareness among young people about the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, compared to the other international entities, may be due to the fact that the Jordanian Prince Raad bin Zeid was the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Among the respondents familiar with international human rights organizations, the data revealed varying levels of confidence. Only 26.3% of respondents expressed a high or very high level of trust in the International Labor Organization, while 25% conveyed similar trust in the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. In comparison, 33.3% expressed high or very high trust in Amnesty International.

Finally, when queried about awareness of the work of Jordanian civil society organizations, only 35% responded positively. Among these respondents, 41.1% expressed high or very high trust, while 48.5% expressed moderate trust.

4.2 Qualitative Findings

Qualitative research shows that participants' awareness and understanding of local and international human rights organizations varied widely. While some participants had a good understanding of these organizations and their roles, others had limited or no knowledge.

Participants were generally more familiar with local organizations. Many had heard of the Independent Election Commission, while some had heard of the National Center for Human Rights, but their roles were mostly unclear. One participant said, *"I've heard of the National Center for Human Rights, but I don't know much about their work"* (FGD01, Female, Amman). Another added, *"The Independent Election Commission is well-known, but I'm not exactly sure what their role is"* (FGD01, Amman, Male). There was also discussion about the perceived effectiveness and reach of these organizations. A participant from Shobak noted, *"People in remote areas are not sufficiently aware of these organizations or how they can help them"* (FGD06, Shobak, Male).

Knowledge of international human rights organizations was generally lower compared to local ones. Few participants could name international bodies or speak of their functions. One participant mentioned, *“I’ve heard of Amnesty International, but I’m not sure exactly what they do”* (FGD01, Amman, Female). Another participant from Irbid shared, *“I have no idea about international human rights organizations and how they might intervene”* (FGD04, Irbid, Male).

Participants expressed varied levels of trust and perceptions of the effectiveness of these organizations. Local organizations were often seen as more accessible but less powerful, whereas international organizations were viewed as potentially more influential but less connected to local issues. A participant from Amman noted, *“Local organizations understand local issues but sometimes their impact is limited”* (FGD01, Amman, Female). Conversely, another participant stated, *“International organizations have greater influence but don’t always understand the specifics of our situation here”* (FGD01, Amman, Male).

Participants suggested that both local and international organizations could improve their outreach and effectiveness by being more transparent and engaging more directly with communities. One participant suggested, *“Organizations should communicate better with people and explain how they can help them”* (FGD05, Shobak, Female). Another added, *“There should be stronger partnerships between local and international organizations to improve the situation”* (FGD06, Shobak, Male).

These insights reflect a blend of awareness, trust, and expectations regarding human rights organizations among the youth in different regions of Jordan.

The survey and focus group findings together highlight the need for enhanced communication, transparency, and engagement from human rights organizations in Jordan. There is a clear need for these entities to better articulate their roles and build trust with youth in the local community to foster a more robust understanding and advocacy for human rights across the nation.

Recent events, particularly the war on Gaza, have significantly influenced Jordanian youth’s perceptions of human rights organizations. While many young people in Jordan fundamentally believe in the concept of human rights, their trust in the organizations that advocate for these rights has been deeply shaken.

Focus group discussions reveal a prevailing sense of skepticism and frustration among Jordanian youth regarding the perceived inaction and hypocrisy of international human rights organizations and the international community. One participant from Amman expressed, *“In Gaza, people suffer a lot, but we don’t see any real reaction from international human rights organizations”* (FGD02, Amman, Male). This sentiment was echoed by another participant from Irbid, who stated, *“The war in Gaza showed the hypocrisy of human rights organizations. They talk a lot but do little”* (FGD04, Irbid, Male).

The inconsistency in the response of these organizations, especially concerning the ongoing suffering in Gaza, has led many to question the sincerity and effectiveness of their efforts. A participant from Amman remarked, *“We feel that human rights is a topic they use only when it suits them, especially in issues related to Gaza”* (FGD01, Amman, Female). This perception of selective advocacy and double standards has fostered a deep mistrust among the youth.

Furthermore, the perceived neglect of Gaza’s plight by international bodies has cast doubt on their true intentions. A participant from Shobak noted, *“International organizations ignore the suffering of people in Gaza, and this makes us doubt their true intentions”* (FGD06, Shobak, Male). Such views underscore a critical disconnect between the ideals promoted by these organizations and their actions on the ground.

These insights highlight a troubling trend: while Jordanian youth remain committed to the principles of human rights, their faith in the institutions that claim to uphold these rights has been undermined. The war on Gaza has not only brought to light the perceived double standards of international human rights organizations but has also prompted a broader questioning of the Western narrative on human rights. This growing disillusionment calls for a reevaluation of how these organizations engage with and address the concerns of affected communities, particularly in regions like Gaza and Sudan.

4.3 Summing Up

The findings from both quantitative surveys and qualitative focus groups shed light on the complex landscape of Jordanian youth perceptions towards human rights institutions, both local and international. A significant gap in awareness prevails, particularly concerning the roles and functions of these organizations. The majority of respondents exhibited limited familiarity with national entities such as the National Center for Human Rights and the Anti-Corruption Commission, highlighting a critical need for enhanced public education and outreach efforts.

Despite this lack of awareness, there exists a notable level of trust among those who are familiar with these institutions, with varying degrees of confidence in their effectiveness. Local organizations are generally perceived as more accessible but less powerful in effecting change compared to international counterparts, which are seen as potentially influential but less attuned to national needs.

The war on Gaza has notably influenced Jordanian youth perceptions of international human rights organizations, revealing a deep-seated skepticism towards perceived inaction and double standards. This disillusionment underscores a broader questioning of the credibility and motives of these entities, necessitating a reevaluation of how they engage with and address human rights issues on a global scale.

Moving forward, there is a clear imperative for human rights organizations, both national and international, to improve transparency, enhance community engagement, and articulate their roles more effectively. Strengthening public awareness and understanding of their mandates and operations is crucial for fostering greater trust and advocacy among Jordanian youth and broader society. By bridging these gaps, these organizations can better fulfill their mission of safeguarding and promoting human rights in Jordan and beyond.



5. Engagement in Human Rights Activities



5. Engagement in Human Rights Activities

This chapter explores the perspectives of Jordanian youth regarding national and international human rights institutions, focusing on their engagement in human rights activities. By conducting quantitative surveys and qualitative focus groups, the study aims to uncover notable gaps in awareness and differing levels of trust, and patterns of participation among young people. The war on Gaza has also recently influenced their perspectives, highlighting both the challenges and opportunities for promoting human rights in Jordan.

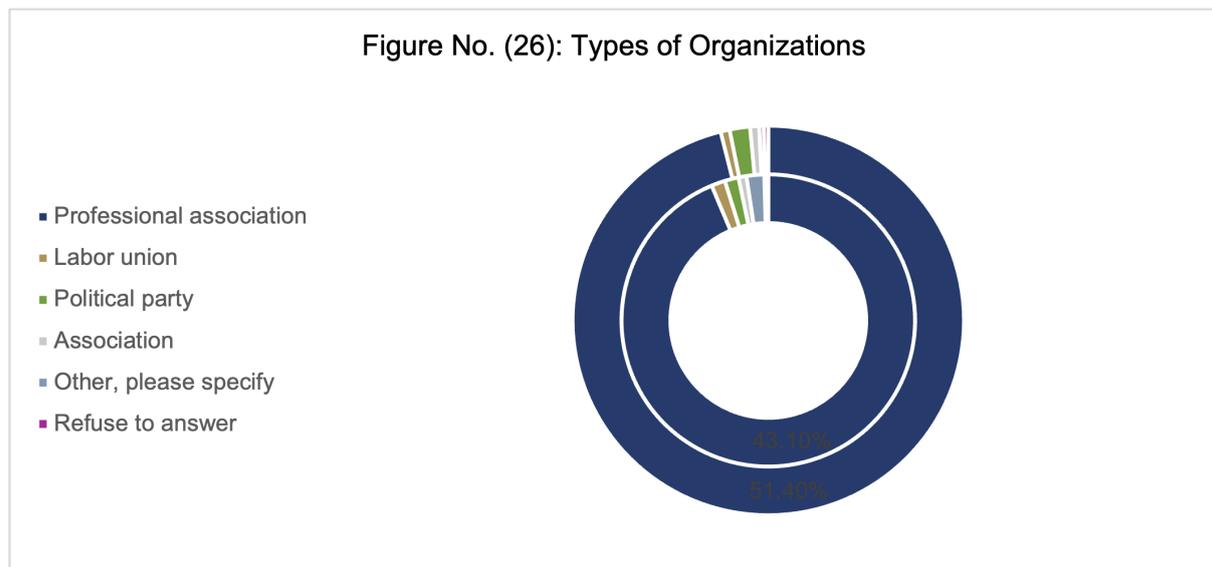
Understanding youth engagement in human rights activities is crucial because young people are pivotal in driving social change and advocacy. Their participation can significantly impact the effectiveness of human rights initiatives and shape the future of human rights protection in Jordan. This chapter is important as it provides insights into the current state of youth engagement, identifies barriers to participation, and suggests areas for improvement to foster more active involvement in human rights causes.

This section examines Jordanian youth engagement with human rights organizations and activities through quantitative surveys and qualitative analysis. It explores membership rates, participation patterns across genders, types of activities undertaken, and reasons for non-engagement. These insights reveal varied levels of involvement and highlight barriers affecting youth participation in human rights advocacy across different demographics and regions in Jordan.

5.1 Quantitative Findings:

Youth Membership in Human Rights Organizations: The data uncovers a notably low level of membership among Jordanian youth in human rights organizations, with only 3.3% of men and 2.2% of women identifying themselves as members. Interestingly, this membership is slightly higher among male respondents, at 3.3%, compared to females, at 2.2%. Despite this slight gender discrepancy, the overall difference in membership rates between genders remains relatively small.

Figure No. (26): Types of Organizations



When examining the types of organizations that youth are involved in, professional associations emerge as the predominant choice for both males and females. Specifically, 43.1% of female respondents and 51.4% of male respondents reported being members of professional associations. This can be explained by the fact that membership in professional associations is mandatory for certain professions, such as lawyers, doctors, accountants, journalists, and others. Additionally, it is evident that youth lack interest in joining political parties and associations.

Youth Participation in Human Rights Activities: While the previous section revealed low membership rates in human rights organizations, a low portion of youth reported participating in various activities within the past year (22.4% overall).

The data reveals significant disparities in how young women and men participate in activism within the past year. Women demonstrate a stronger presence in online and written forms of activism, with a much higher participation rate in writing articles on websites (66.7% vs. 33.3%) and online discussions (80% vs. 20%). Conversely, men dominate activities requiring physical attendance, such as workshops (62.1% vs. 37.9%) and volunteering (90% vs. 10%).

The data also suggests that women might face limitations, possibly due to familial or traditional restrictions, which hinder their physical participation in activism that requires mobility. Online platforms and writing might provide a more accessible and comfortable space for women to express themselves and engage in activism.

However, the gender gap narrows in several areas. Participation is more balanced in writing articles in newspapers (men: 42.9%, women: 57.1%), sharing content on social media (men: 56.3%, women: 43.8%), and even participating in marches and protests (men: 56.3%, women: 43.8%). Interestingly, there's complete parity in signing petitions (50% for both genders).

The high participation rate in marches and protests, particularly among women, can be partially attributed to the recent war on Gaza. This specific issue might trigger a stronger response through public demonstrations, which aligns with the noticeable gender gap in physical activism. Online activism offers advantages for both genders. It provides a level of anonymity that can be appealing, especially as it offers a safe space from the perceived restrictions that young men and women experience.

Young men and women engaged in human rights activism demonstrate distinct areas of focus. Men tend to prioritize issues related to poverty, freedom of expression, media censorship, discrimination, and arrest. Their activism might be more outwardly focused on challenging authority and systemic issues.

In contrast, women focus more on criticizing figures of power, torture, labor rights, and human trafficking. Their activism might be driven by a desire for social justice and protection of vulnerable populations. Interestingly, none of the male respondents expressed interest in labor rights or human trafficking, suggesting a potential blind spot in these areas. However, the analysis reveals a positive trend. The gender gap narrows when it comes to activism concerning war, women's rights, corruption, education, and health. These areas appear to be of mutual concern for both genders, suggesting a shared commitment to addressing critical human rights issues.

Figure No. (27): Activities related to human rights- Males

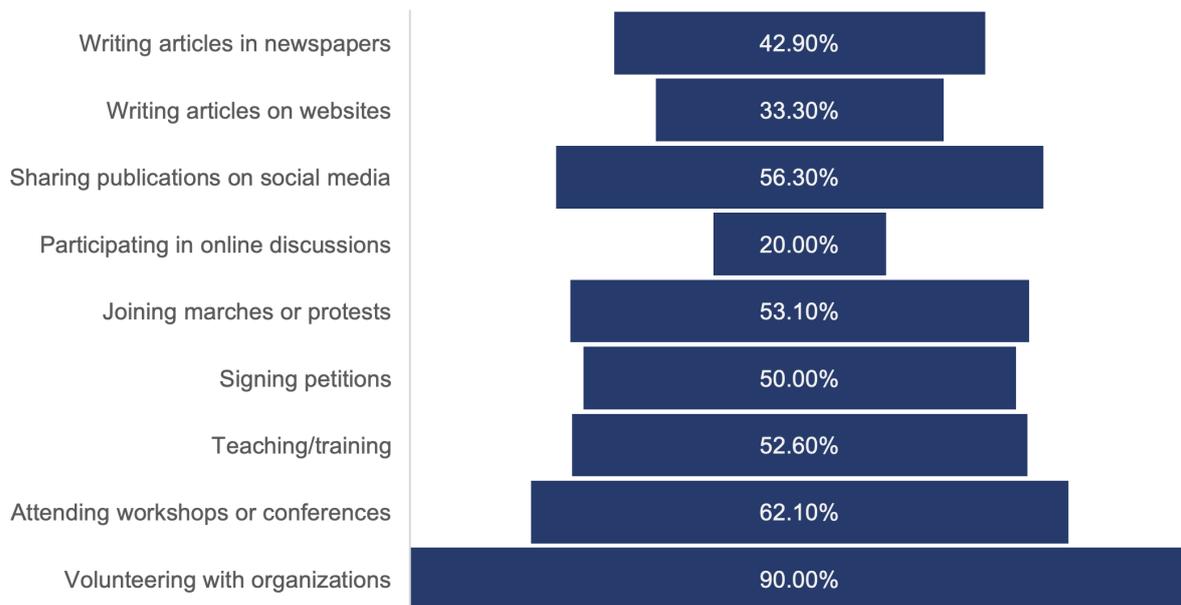


Figure No. (28): Activities related to human rights - Females

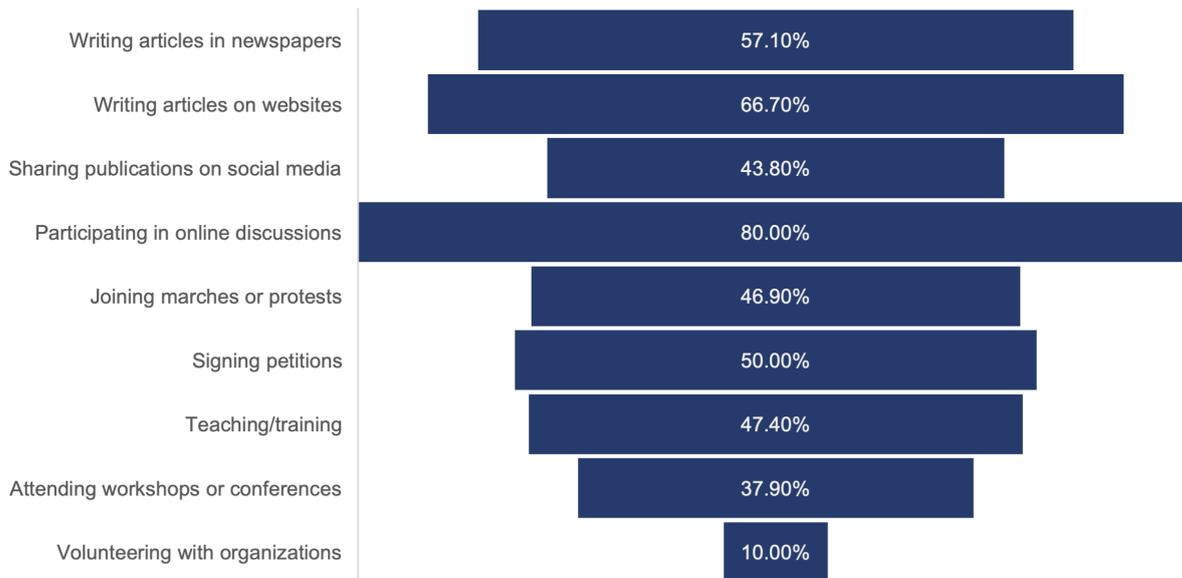
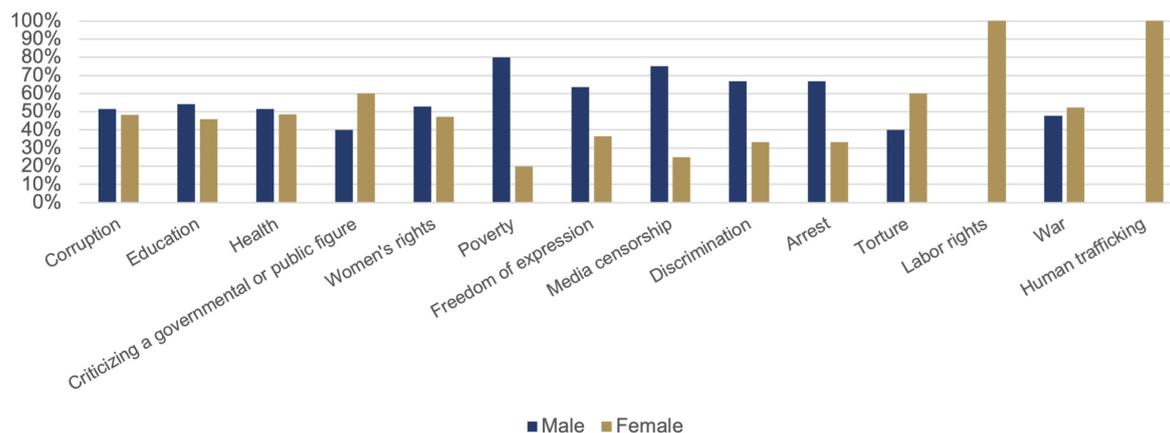


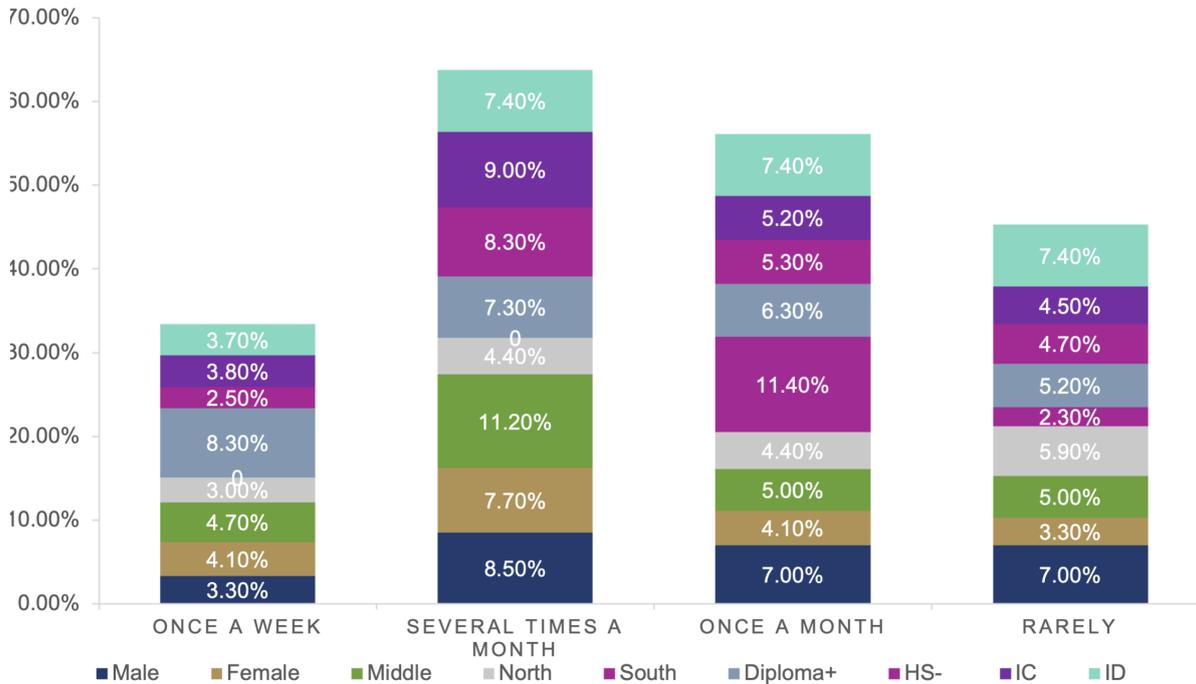
Figure No. (29): Human Rights Topics of Engagement Among Jordanian Youth: Gender Breakdown



Human Rights Topics of Engagement Among Jordanian Youth: Gender Breakdown

Participation Patterns: The analysis of the table on the frequency of participation in human rights activities reveals several noteworthy trends across different demographic groups.

FIGURE NO. (30): HOW OFTEN DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN SUCH ACTIVITIES?



The data indicates that the majority of respondents from all demographics participate in human rights activities rarely. However, there are slight variations in participation frequency across different groups.

Gender plays a role in participation frequency, with females demonstrating slightly higher rates of engagement compared to males across all response categories, with 4.1% of females engaging once a week compared to 3.3% of males. This suggests a potentially higher level of awareness or inclination towards involvement in human rights issues among women.

Regionally, respondents from the Middle region exhibit the highest frequency of participation, particularly engaging several times a month, with 11.2% of respondents participating several times a month. In contrast, participants from the North and South regions primarily engage rarely in human rights activities, with only 3.0% of respondents from the North engaging once a week.

Education level also influences participation frequency, with individuals holding diplomas or higher degrees demonstrating higher rates of engagement, particularly participating once a week, with 8.3% of such respondents participating at this frequency. Conversely, those with a high school education or less engage less frequently, with a notable proportion participating rarely, with only 2.5% participating once a week.

Income level appears to be another determining factor, as respondents with income levels covering expenses and allowing for savings participate more frequently compared to those facing financial difficulties, with 9.0% of respondents with comfortable income levels participating several times a month.

Reasons for Non-Engagement in Human Rights Activities

While only 22.4% of survey respondents reported participating in human rights activities in the past year, a closer look at the reasons behind non-participation reveals a complex landscape shaped by gender and geographical location. Interestingly, a significant portion of respondents (65.2% of men and 34.8% of women) declined to answer the question entirely. This itself warrants further investigation.

Table 3.3.1 presents the reasons cited by respondents for their non-participation in certain activities related to advocacy or community engagement. The table highlights gender-disaggregated data, illustrating the varying perspectives between male (M) and female (F) respondents. The reasons encompass a range of concerns and barriers that influence individuals' decisions to abstain from participation, including fear of harassment and threats, familial or social disapproval, doubts about effectiveness, time constraints, and lack of awareness about available participation opportunities.

Figure No. (31): If you did not participate in such activities, what are the reasons? - Males

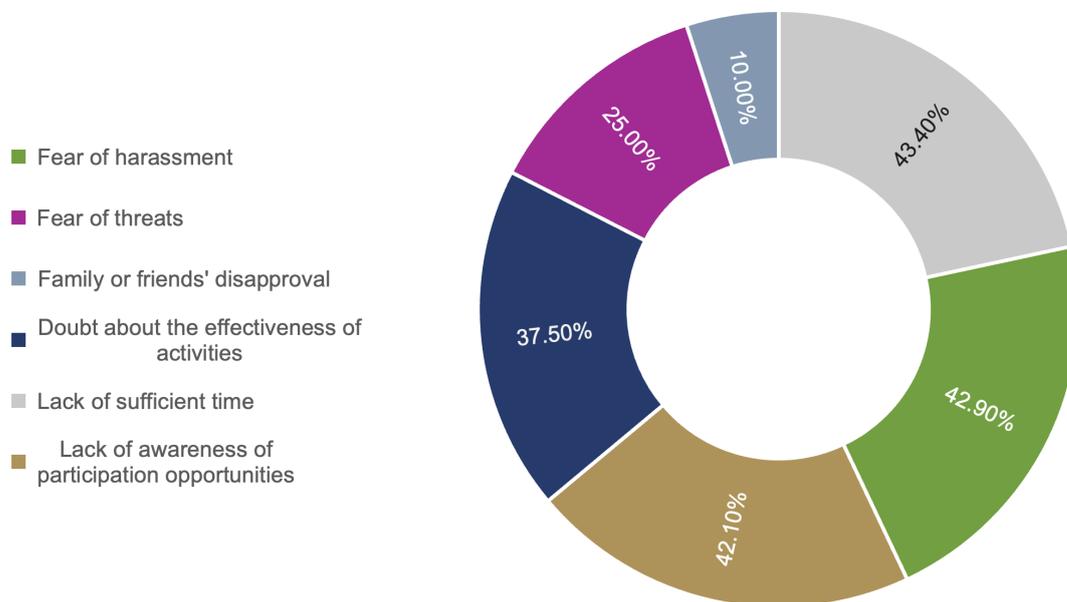
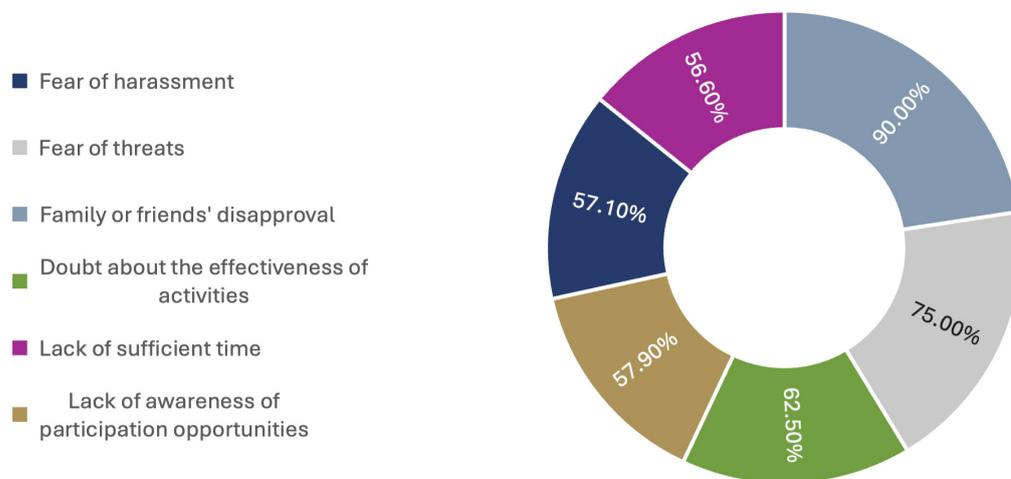


Figure No.(32): If you did not participate in such activities, what are the reasons? - Females



The insights from figures 31 and 32 reveal significant gender disparities in reasons for non-participation in advocacy and community activities among Jordanian respondents. Women notably cite higher levels of fear of harassment (57.1%) and threats (75%), reflecting concerns about personal safety and security compared to men (42.9% and 25%, respectively). Conversely, a striking majority of men (90%) attribute non-participation to family or friends' disapproval, indicating strong social pressures on male participation in such activities. Both genders express doubts about effectiveness, with a higher proportion of women (62.5%) compared to men (37.5%), suggesting a more critical assessment of impact among female respondents. Time constraints and lack of awareness of participation opportunities are also prevalent barriers across both genders, though slightly more pronounced among women.

Geographical Disparities in Non-Participation Reasons:

The analysis of non-participation reasons in human rights activities across Jordanian regions reveals distinct patterns. The Middle region stands out with significantly higher concerns about fear of harassment (71.4%) and doubts about activity effectiveness (87.5%), likely influenced by frequent demonstrations and perceived ineffectiveness of advocacy efforts. Conversely, the North shows minimal concerns about harassment and doubts regarding effectiveness, but a notable 80.0% cite family or friends' disapproval as a barrier. In the South, respondents express lower levels of fear of harassment and threats, with the lowest percentage citing lack of awareness of participation opportunities (11.2%) as a barrier. Overall, these findings underscore regional differences in safety perceptions, societal norms, and awareness levels that shape individuals' decisions regarding civic engagement in human rights activities in Jordan.

5.2 Qualitative Findings

This section explores qualitative findings on Jordanian youth participation in human rights activities. Insights from focus group discussions reveal motivations, barriers, and regional dynamics influencing engagement.

Participants expressed various reasons for their involvement or lack of involvement in human rights activities. Some youth cited a strong desire to advocate for change and support marginalized communities as their primary motivation. A participant from Amman noted, *“I participate in protests and online campaigns because I want to make a difference and help those who don't have a voice”* (FGD01, Amman, Female). This sentiment was echoed by others who felt a sense of responsibility to contribute to societal improvement.

However, several barriers to participation were highlighted, including fear of repercussions, lack of awareness, and societal pressures. A participant from Irbid stated, *“Many people are afraid to join protests or speak out because they fear being arrested or targeted”* (FGD04, Irbid, Male). This fear of repercussions was a common theme, indicating a significant deterrent to active engagement in human rights activities. Additionally, a participant from Shobak mentioned, *“There is a lack of information about how to get involved in human rights activities, especially in rural areas”* (FGD06, Shobak, Female). This lack of awareness and information was particularly pronounced in more remote regions, suggesting a need for better outreach and educational efforts.

Gender-specific challenges were also noted, with women facing additional obstacles due to traditional norms and familial restrictions. A participant from Shobak explained, *“As a woman, it's hard to participate in physical activities like protests because my family is concerned about my safety and reputation”* (FGD05, Shobak, Female). This highlights how societal expectations, and familial concerns can limit women's physical participation in activism, pushing them towards less visible forms of engagement.

Online platforms were highlighted as a preferred form of engagement for many youth, particularly women, due to their accessibility and the relative anonymity they offer. A participant from Amman shared, *“I prefer to write articles and join online discussions because it’s safer and I can reach a wider audience”* (FGD01, Amman, Female). However, concerns about cybersecurity and cybercrimes were also raised. One participant from Irbid mentioned, *“While online activism is accessible, there is always a risk of cybercrimes and hacking, which can be very dangerous”* (FGD04, Irbid, Male). These concerns about online safety and privacy indicate that while online platforms provide valuable spaces for activism, they also pose significant risks that need to be managed.

Participants highlighted that their participation in human rights activities is often influenced by their **personal circumstances** and perceived impact of their actions. A participant from Amman noted, *“I try to join activities at least once a month, but it really depends on my schedule and how impactful I think the activity will be”* (FGD01, Amman, Female). This sentiment was echoed by another participant from Shobak who stated, *“I participate whenever I can, but it’s hard to be consistent because of work and family commitments”* (FGD05, Shobak, Male).

The qualitative data supports the **regional variations** observed in the quantitative analysis. Participants from the Middle region expressed higher engagement levels, citing better access to information and more opportunities to participate. A participant from the Middle region mentioned, *“We have more workshops and seminars here, so it’s easier to stay involved”* (FGD02, Amman, Female). In contrast, a participant from the North stated, *“There aren’t many events or organizations here, so I rarely get the chance to participate”* (FGD04, Irbid, Male).

Higher **education levels** were associated with increased participation, as participants with diplomas or higher degrees often had more knowledge about human rights issues and available opportunities. A participant from Amman with a diploma noted, *“Being in university, I hear about a lot of events and get invited to workshops, which keeps me engaged”* (FGD01, Amman, Female). On the other hand, a participant with a high school education mentioned, *“I don’t know much about what’s going on, so I don’t participate often”* (FGD06, Shobak, Male).

Financial stability was also a factor in participation frequency. Participants with higher income levels felt more able to allocate time and resources to human rights activities. A participant from Amman stated, *“Having a stable job allows me to take time off for these activities”* (FGD01, Amman, Female). Conversely, those with lower incomes expressed challenges in balancing participation with their financial responsibilities. A participant from Shobak mentioned, *“I can’t afford to miss work for these activities, even if I want to be more involved”* (FGD05, Shobak, Female).

Focus group Discussion Participants provided deeper insights into the **reasons for non-engagement** in human rights activities, emphasizing personal and societal barriers. One female participant from Irbid mentioned, *“I want to be involved, but I fear harassment and threats, especially online and in public spaces”* (FGD03, Irbid, Female). This reflects a common concern among women, highlighting the significant impact of safety fears on their willingness to participate.

Family and social disapproval were also significant deterrents, particularly for women. A participant from Shobak shared, *“My family doesn’t approve of me getting involved in protests or any public activities. They worry about my safety and reputation”* (FGD05, Shobak, Female). This underscores the role of societal norms and familial expectations in limiting women’s participation.

Many participants expressed doubts about the effectiveness of human rights activities, which deterred their involvement. A male participant from Amman stated, *“Sometimes I feel like these activities don’t lead to real change, so I don’t see the point in participating”* (FGD02, Amman, Male). This skepticism was even more pronounced among women, suggesting a need for more transparent and impactful advocacy efforts to build trust and confidence.

The lack of sufficient time was another frequently mentioned barrier. Participants pointed

out that balancing personal responsibilities with activism is challenging. A female participant from Shobak noted, *“I have to take care of my family and work, so I don’t have much time for activism”* (FGD05, Shobak, Female). This highlights the importance of creating more flexible and accessible opportunities for engagement.

Lastly, the lack of awareness about participation opportunities was a significant hurdle, especially in remote areas. A participant from Irbid remarked, *“I don’t know where to start or what organizations are out there. There’s a lack of information”* (FGD04, Irbid, Male). This points to the need for better communication and outreach strategies to inform and engage more youth in human rights activities.

Focus group participants provided insights into the reasons for non-participation, emphasizing **regional disparities**. A participant from Amman noted, *“In the Middle region, protests are common, but the fear of harassment and threats is very real. It makes people think twice about participating”* (FGD01, Amman, Female). This highlights how the high prevalence of demonstrations in the Middle region (Amman mainly) contributes to increased safety concerns.

In the North region, the absence of fear of harassment might reflect different social dynamics or fewer opportunities for large-scale protests. A participant from Irbid stated, *“We don’t see many protests here, so harassment isn’t a big concern, but we still worry about threats”* (FGD04, Irbid, Male). This indicates that while the threat of harassment is low, other forms of intimidation still affect participation.

Family and social disapproval were particularly significant in the Middle region, as one participant shared, *“My family doesn’t support my involvement in activism. They think it’s too risky, and they’re worried about our reputation”* (FGD02, Amman, Male). This contrasts with the South and North, likely because Amman hosts major security-sensitive entities, such as the Israeli embassy, the Prime Ministry, and various governmental ministries, leading to heightened security concerns perceived by families. Additionally, in governorates, where communities are more close-knit and everyone knows each other, there is a stronger social cohesion, whereas the greater diversity in Amman can be perceived as more dangerous by families for such activities.

Doubts about the effectiveness of human rights activities were especially prevalent in the Middle region. A participant mentioned, *“Many people here feel that these activities don’t lead to any real change, so they don’t see the point in getting involved”* (FGD01, Amman, Female). This skepticism could be due to past experiences where advocacy efforts failed to yield tangible results.

Time constraints were a common barrier in the Middle region, with participants mentioning demanding work schedules and personal responsibilities. One participant noted, *“Living in the capital means balancing work and family life, leaving little time for activism”* (FGD02, Amman, Female). This reflects the fast-paced lifestyle and higher economic activity in Amman.

Lastly, the lack of awareness about participation opportunities was a major issue in the North and Middle regions. A participant from Irbid remarked, *“I often don’t hear about events or ways to get involved until it’s too late. There needs to be better communication”* (FGD04, Irbid, Male). This underscores the need for improved outreach and information dissemination to engage more youth in these areas.

The qualitative insights enhance the quantitative findings, offering a detailed understanding of the regional factors that impact youth involvement in human rights activities in Jordan. They underscore distinct regional patterns: the Middle region stands out with significantly higher concerns about fear of harassment (71.4%) and doubts about activity effectiveness (87.5%), likely influenced by frequent demonstrations and perceived ineffectiveness of advocacy efforts. In contrast, the North shows minimal concerns about harassment and doubts regarding

effectiveness but faces substantial barriers due to family or friends' disapproval (80.0%). Meanwhile, the South exhibits lower levels of fear regarding harassment and threats, with a focus on improving awareness of participation opportunities (11.2%) as a primary challenge. These insights emphasize the necessity for targeted outreach and support tailored to address regional disparities in safety perceptions, societal norms, and awareness levels, crucial for fostering inclusive and effective youth engagement in human rights initiatives across Jordan.

5.3 Summing Up

This part of the study offers a comprehensive overview of youth engagement in human rights activities across Jordan, integrating insights from both quantitative and qualitative data. A significant finding is the low membership rates among Jordanian youth in human rights organizations, indicating a need for these organizations to enhance their appeal and relevance to young people.

Gender disparities in engagement reveal distinct patterns: while women demonstrate higher participation in online activism, they encounter greater barriers to physical involvement due to safety concerns and societal norms. In contrast, men engage more actively in physical activities such as workshops and protests, albeit facing challenges like familial disapproval. Addressing these disparities requires gender-sensitive strategies that accommodate diverse preferences and constraints faced by young activists.

Regional variations play a pivotal role in shaping youth participation dynamics. The Middle region, centered around Amman, exhibits higher engagement levels but also heightened concerns about harassment and skepticism regarding the effectiveness of activism. In contrast, the North and South regions present unique challenges related to awareness and societal acceptance of human rights activism. Tailored approaches that account for regional contexts are essential to fostering inclusive participation and addressing specific local barriers.

Barriers to youth participation include fear of harassment, doubts about the impact of activities, familial disapproval, time constraints, and lack of awareness about available opportunities. These barriers vary in prominence across genders and regions, underscoring the necessity for targeted interventions. Strategies should aim to mitigate safety concerns, enhance educational initiatives, and improve accessibility to empower more youth to participate actively in human rights causes.

The influence of education and income levels on engagement highlights the role of socio-economic factors. Higher levels of education and financial stability correlate positively with increased participation rates among youth. This correlation suggests that improving educational access and economic conditions can facilitate greater youth involvement in human rights advocacy and activities.

Online platforms emerge as crucial avenues for youth engagement due to their accessibility and perceived safety compared to physical participation. However, concerns about cybersecurity underscore the need for robust safeguards to protect activists involved in online advocacy. Balancing the benefits of online platforms with risk mitigation strategies is essential for creating a secure environment conducive to sustained youth activism.

In conclusion, fostering meaningful youth engagement in human rights activities in Jordan requires comprehensive strategies that address gender disparities, regional dynamics, socio-economic influences, and the evolving landscape of digital activism. By adapting approaches to meet diverse needs and challenges, stakeholders can empower the next generation of activists and advocates for social change effectively.

6. Conclusions



6. Conclusions

What do young people in Jordan think about human rights? Which human rights matter to them? What do they know about human rights institutions and organizations? And to what extent do they themselves engage in human rights activism?

These are some of the questions that we have explored in this study. Based on quantitative and qualitative data, this study has explored young people's human rights perceptions, attitudes, awareness, and engagement. The study is organized into four chapters, each analyzing different aspects of the nexus between youth and human rights: Chapter 2 examines Jordanian youths' attitudes towards human rights, with a particular focus on issues such as freedom of expression, gender equality, administrative detention, and torture. Chapter 3 explores young people's perceptions of human rights protection, asking participants how well they think selected human rights are safeguarded in Jordan. Chapter 4 assesses young people's awareness of, and trust in, different human rights institutions. Finally, Chapter 5 looks at young people's engagement in human rights activities.

6.1 Youths' Attitudes towards Human Rights

The findings from our study reveal a complex and sometimes surprising landscape of attitudes towards human rights among Jordanian youth. Overall, young people in Jordan generally have positive attitudes towards human rights, with a substantial majority expressing strong support for gender equality and women's rights. Specifically, our survey found that 86.2% of young women and nearly 74% of young men believe in the importance of gender equality. When looking at education levels, 83.4% of youth with a high school education or less (HS-) and 79.4% of those with a diploma or higher (Diploma+) also emphasize the importance of gender equality, showing broad support across educational backgrounds. Regionally, support for gender equality is highest in the Northern region at approximately 89%, reflecting regional differences in attitudes.

Additionally, a significant portion of youth values freedom of expression, with 80.5% of women and 72.8% of men rating it as important or very important. This sentiment is echoed across different regions, with the Northern region placing the highest importance on freedom of speech (87.4%). Education also influences these attitudes, as 78.9% of Diploma+ individuals value free speech compared to 70.9% of HS- individuals. Interestingly, income levels do not significantly affect the perceived importance of freedom of expression, suggesting that the value placed on this right is consistent across socioeconomic backgrounds.

However, the study also highlights areas where opinions are more divided or where support for human rights is less robust. For instance, attitudes toward media freedom and censorship show ambivalence. While many young people support unrestricted media, there is also considerable support for government censorship to maintain political stability. This reflects a dual perspective that values freedom but also sees a need for regulation. This ambivalence is particularly pronounced among youth in the Middle and Southern regions, where support for government intervention in media content is higher. Education also plays a role, with 74% of HS- individuals supporting government censorship compared to 66.7% of Diploma+ holders, indicating that higher education correlates with a more critical stance on government censorship.

Similarly, the issue of administrative detention and the use of torture reveals a concerning lack of consensus. While 42.7% of young women oppose torture, 39% of men and 30.5% of women support its use under certain conditions. This division is more pronounced in the Southern region, where support for torture is higher, contrasting with stronger opposition in the Middle region. Education levels also affect these views, as those with higher education are more likely to oppose torture, while higher-income individuals show more support for government use of torture compared to lower-income individuals. These findings indicate a need for further investigation into why such views persist among the youth.

There is a significant gap in human rights education. The data suggests that more education is necessary to promote a better understanding of human rights among Jordanian youth, particularly regarding the importance of judicial oversight and the prohibition of torture. Moreover, the findings highlight the need for further studies to explore the underlying factors influencing youth perceptions, especially in areas where support for human rights appears to be weaker or more conflicted.

6.2 Perceptions of Human Rights Protection in Jordan:

Our study reveals diverse perceptions of human rights protection among Jordanian youth, highlighting both optimism and significant concerns. Overall, young people have varying views on the effectiveness of human rights protections, influenced by demographic factors such as gender, region, education, and socio-economic status.

Notably, gender disparities are evident, with 47% of men perceiving human rights protection to be high or very high, compared to 34.9% of women. This suggests that men generally have a more optimistic outlook, while women are more critical, often feeling more vulnerable to rights violations and lacking access to justice.

Regional variations further illustrate these complexities. For example, 55.7% of men in the southern regions view human rights protection positively, whereas only 31.8% of men in the north share this sentiment. Women's perceptions follow a similar pattern, with the highest support for human rights protection in the north (43.1%) and the lowest in the south (31.8%). These findings suggest that regional disparities significantly shape how human rights protections are perceived across Jordan.

Education also plays a critical role. Higher-educated individuals (Diploma+) tend to have a slightly more optimistic view of human rights protections, while those with a high school education or less (HS-) exhibit more skepticism. Income level influences perceptions as well; higher-income individuals express more confidence in the high or very high protection of human rights compared to their lower-income counterparts, indicating that socio-economic status impacts trust in the country's human rights framework.

The data further reveals that social norms, family influences, and conservative forces are perceived as significant barriers to human rights protection, particularly among women and higher-educated individuals. For instance, 62.3% of females attribute the lack of human rights protection to social norms and traditions, compared to 37.7% of males.

6.3 Knowledge and Trust in Human Rights Institutions

Young people in Jordan have very limited awareness of key human rights institutions, both nationally and internationally. A striking 66.7% of respondents in our survey had no familiarity with the National Center for Human Rights, and 51.2% were unaware of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Additionally, 36.4% of participants did not know about the Independent Election Commission, which, despite being the most recognized among the listed entities, still shows a significant gap in knowledge.

However, there are positive indications regarding trust. Among those who are aware of these institutions, there are notable levels of trust: approximately 34.6% of respondents expressed high or very high trust in the National Center for Human Rights, while 27.3% felt the same about the Anti-Corruption Commission, and 29.5% trusted the Independent Election Commission. This suggests that when young people are informed about these organizations, they tend to trust their efforts and impact.

Interestingly, Jordanian civil society organizations enjoy a comparatively higher level of trust among those familiar with them. Among the respondents who were aware of these organizations, 41.1% expressed high or very high trust, and 48.5% expressed moderate trust. This higher trust level suggests that young people perceive civil society organizations as more engaged and responsive to local needs compared to national institutions, which may be seen as more bureaucratic or less transparent.

Awareness of international human rights organizations is similarly low, with 76.5% of respondents not familiar with Amnesty International and 54.7% unaware of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The qualitative data supports these findings, revealing that many young people have a better understanding of national organizations than international ones, yet still possess limited knowledge about their roles and functions.

Young people are disappointed in the international human rights system. In our focus group discussions, many young Jordanians expressed a deep sense of disappointment and distrust in human rights organizations, due to their perceived failure in upholding key human rights principles in the context of the events in Gaza and the broader Palestinian territories. They believe that the international human rights community's response to these events has been inadequate, inconsistent, and biased. They feel that while international bodies may advocate for universal human rights, their actions do not always align with their principles, especially regarding the protection of Palestinian people's rights. As one participant noted: "The war in Gaza showed the hypocrisy of human rights organizations. They talk a lot but do little."

6.4 Young People's Engagement in Human Rights Activities:

Our study reveals that young people in Jordan are generally not very engaged in human rights activities, with low levels of participation across various types of activism. Across the different themes, we analyzed survey data disaggregated by gender, educational level, socio-economic status, and region, identifying significant patterns and trends that highlight the complexities of youth engagement.

Overall, young women appear more supportive of human rights and more concerned about the lack of protection compared to young men. Women demonstrate higher levels of participation in online activism, such as writing articles on websites and engaging in online discussions, reflecting a preference for safer, more accessible forms of engagement due to societal norms and safety concerns. Conversely, men are more active in physical forms of activism, including workshops and protests, where they can participate more openly despite facing social pressures, such as familial disapproval.

Regional differences also play a significant role in shaping youth engagement in human rights activities. Youth in the Middle region, particularly in Amman, show higher levels of involvement but also express greater concerns about harassment and doubts about the effectiveness of their activism. This contrasts with youth in the North and South regions, where challenges include lower awareness levels and societal acceptance of human rights advocacy. These regional disparities suggest that engagement strategies need to be tailored to local contexts, addressing specific barriers and promoting greater inclusion.

Higher education levels correlate with increased participation in human rights activities, highlighting the role of educational exposure in fostering awareness and advocacy skills. Similarly, financial stability allows for more consistent engagement, with those from higher income brackets participating more frequently in human rights causes. In contrast, youth with lower educational attainment or facing financial difficulties are less likely to engage.

6.5 Key Takeaways

Understanding the attitudes, perceptions, and engagement of young people in Jordan regarding human rights is critical for several reasons. As a significant demographic group, young people represent a substantial portion of the population, and their perspectives provide valuable insights into the current and future landscape of human rights in the country. Young people are not only the future decision-makers and potential change agents; they are also active participants in shaping societal norms and values. By examining their attitudes and behaviors, this research contributes to building a stronger human rights culture in Jordan, fostering informed citizenship, and supporting youth as advocates for social change.

Our research reveals clear gender differences in young people's attitudes toward human rights, their perceptions of human rights protection, and their types of participation. Young women in Jordan generally show more support for human rights and greater concern about the lack of protection compared to young men. This could be due to their experiences with gender inequality and societal constraints, which shape their approach to human rights engagement. Women are more likely to participate in online activism due to safety concerns and societal norms that limit physical involvement, while men are more involved in public protests and workshops. These differences highlight the importance of considering gender-specific perspectives when planning future human rights activities and policies, ensuring that both young men and women are effectively engaged and empowered to contribute to human rights initiatives.

The study also reveals significant regional differences in how young people perceive human rights protection and engage in human rights activities. Youth in urban areas, particularly in the Middle region around Amman, demonstrate higher levels of engagement but also face greater skepticism about the effectiveness of activism and concerns about harassment. In contrast, young people in the North and South regions face distinct challenges, including lower awareness levels and societal acceptance of human rights activism. These regional disparities suggest that local contexts heavily influence youth engagement and perceptions, shaped by factors such as access to information, societal norms, and the availability of opportunities for participation.

This research identifies key areas where there is a need for capacity-building and awareness-raising among young people, such as through human rights education in schools and universities. By highlighting the gaps in awareness and the challenges faced by youth in engaging with human rights issues, the study provides valuable input for human rights institutions and organizations on where and how to strengthen their visibility and impact. Furthermore, the findings can guide politicians and policymakers in addressing the concerns of young people, such as the perceived lack of gender equality, and developing targeted interventions that promote a more inclusive and equitable society.

Moving forward, this study lays the groundwork for developing targeted human rights education and advocacy programs that cater to the diverse needs and challenges of Jordanian youth. It emphasizes the importance of creating safe and inclusive spaces for young people to engage in human rights activities, whether online or in person. Future research should explore the effectiveness of recent legislative reforms, available educational programs on human rights, how national institutions target youth, the long-term impact of socio-economic factors on youth participation, and the evolving role of digital activism in shaping human rights discourse. By understanding these dynamics, stakeholders can develop strategies that foster a more active and informed youth population in Jordan, ultimately contributing to the advancement of human rights in the region.



Annexs



Annex A Bibliography of Sources Consulted

- Arab Barometer (2022). Jordan Country Report 2021-2022.
- Ayman Halaseh (2020), Crime Prevention Law Between the Requirements of Administrative Control and Observance of Rights and Freedoms, Journal of Legal and Political Sciences, Scientific Center for Research and Strategic Studies - Aalborg Academy, 25 (4).
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2017). Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Jordan, CEDAW/C/JOR/CO/6.
- Human Rights Watch (2022), World Report, Jordan
- Human Rights Watch, Jordan: Government Crushes Civic Space, 18 September 2022.
- Ragetlie, R., Najjar, D., & Baruah, B. (2021). Paying “Lip Service” to Gender Equality: The Hollow Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming in Jordan. Civil Society Review, (5), November. Retrieved from academia.edu.
- Jordan Open-Source Association (JOSA) (2024). [Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence Legislative Mapping](#).
- Save the Children Jordan, SoS Jordan and Information and Research Center King Hussein Foundation (2023), Submission to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations Universal Periodic Review of Jordan (Fourth Cycle, Jan. – Feb. 2024) – 45th Session.
- The Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development, Position Paper on the Cybercrime Law Issued by Al Nahda activists, 8 August 2023.
- The National Center for Human Rights (2021). Annual Report.
- The National Center for Human Rights (2022), Annual report.
- UN Women (2022), Understanding Masculinities: International Men and Gender Equality Survey – Jordan.
- UNESCO (2024), The Right to Information (RTI) Rating.
- US Department of State: Jordan (2022). Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Jordan.
- US Department of State (2023). Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Jordan.

Annex B Data Collection Tools

Quantitative tools

Title: “Survey: Youth Perspectives, Knowledge, and Perceptions on Human Rights Issues in Jordan”

Introduction:

I am [Your Name] from the Information and Research Center at the King Hussein Foundation. Currently, we are collaborating with the Danish Institute for Human Rights to conduct a survey on “Youth Perspectives, Knowledge, and Perceptions on Human Rights Issues in Jordan.” This questionnaire focuses on specific human rights issues, including freedom of expression, political participation, access to information and media, women’s rights and gender equality, social and economic rights, as well as arbitrary detention and torture.

This survey will help us gain a deeper understanding of the human rights situation in Jordan from the perspective of the youth, exploring their stances, perceptions, knowledge, and awareness of human rights issues. It will also shed light on their actual engagement and preferred activities related to these issues.

We kindly request you to fill out this questionnaire, which should take approximately 15 minutes. You have the complete freedom to stop filling out the survey at any time if you wish.

Rest assured; your privacy is protected. All data collected will be kept confidential and anonymized. We adhere to strict data protection regulations.

Are you willing to participate in this study?

Answer:

Yes

No (End the interview)

Personal Information		
Question (Q1)	Age	Response
		Under 18 (End interview)
		18 years old
		19 years old
		20 years old
		21 years old
		22 years old
		23 years old
		24 years old
		25 years and above (End interview)

Question (Q2)	Gender	Response
		1. Male
		2. Female
		3. Refuse to answer

Question (Q3)	Nationality	Response
		1. Jordanian Citizen (Proceed to Q5)
		2. Non-Jordanian
		3. Refuse to answer

Question (Q4)	If non-Jordanian, what is Your Status in the Country? (Do not read the options)	Response
		1. Palestinian Refugee
		2. Syrian Refugee
		3. Refugee from Another Nationality
		4. Spouse of Jordanian
		5. Children of Jordanian Women
		6. Foreign Worker
		7. Foreign Resident
		8. Stateless
		9. Other, Specify: _____
		10. Refuse to answer

Question (Q5) Current Place of Residence - Governorate: (chosed what applies do not read the options)		
		Response
		1. Amman
		2. Zarqa
		3. Irbid
		4. Mafrak
		5. Ajloun
		6. Jerash
		7. Salt
		8. Madaba
		9. Karak
		10. Ma'an
		11. Aqaba
		12. Tafila
		Refuse to answer

Attitudes of Respondents Towards Human Rights Issues

The following set of questions aims to assess the perspectives, beliefs, and motivations of young individuals regarding specific human rights topics, including freedom of expression, access to information and media, women's rights and gender equality, as well as arbitrary detentions and torture.

Question (Q6) We will present you with some statements related to your attitudes on human rights issues. Please indicate the importance of the following statements to you using the following scale: (Very Important, Important, Somewhat Important, Not Important, Not Important at All)		
	Statement	Response
	1. Living in a country where you can openly express your thoughts and criticize the state or government	—
	2. Living in a country where media can report news without censorship	—
	3. Living in a country where women and men have equal rights	—
	4. Living in a country where Individuals being detained only through the judicial authority, not government agencies	—

Question (Q7) We will present you with some statements, and we would like to know your agreement or disagreement with them using the following scale: (Strongly Agree, Agree, Somewhat Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Refuse to Answer).		
	Statement	Response
	1. The government should have the right to prevent media from publishing things it believes will undermine political stability	—
	2. Women should always adhere to social customs and traditions	—
	3. The government can use a certain degree of torture if it can obtain information from suspects	—
	4. The concept of human rights does not align with Jordanian values and traditions	
	5. Cyber Crimes Law restricts freedom of speech	

Section 2: Respondents' Perceptions Towards Human Rights Issues:

This section measures the perceptions of young individuals towards certain human rights topics and how the youth perceive and understand them.

Question (Q8) In your opinion, what is the level of human rights protection in Jordan? Answer according to the following scale Very high, High, Moderate, Low, very low, Unsure / Don't know, refuse to answer.

	Response
--	----------

Question (Q9)	If your answer to the previous question (Q8) was (Moderate, Low, very low, Unsure / Don't know), What do you believe are the reasons for the lack of protection of human rights? Please select all that apply.
1	Traditions and Social Norms
2	Family and parental influences
3	Presence of influential conservative forces
4	Security concerns
5	Weak credibility of political parties
6	Bureaucracy
7	Lack of political will
8	Laws not supportive of human rights
9	Other; specify: _____
10	Refuse to answer

Question (Q10) For each of the following groups, could you please tell me whether, in your opinion, discrimination is very widespread, fairly widespread, fairly rare or very rare in Jordan? By discrimination we mean when somebody is treated unfavorably compared with others based on arbitrary criteria.

Statement	very widespread	fairly widespread	fairly rare	Very rare	I don't know	Refuse to answer
1. Youth						
2. Children						
3. Women						
4. People with disabilities						
5. Elderly individuals						
6. Refugees						
7. Foreign workers						
8. Ethnic minorities						
9. Religious minorities						

Section Three: Respondents' Knowledge of Human Rights and Entities Active in Human Rights

This section measures the knowledge and awareness of youth regarding specific topics related to human rights.

Question (Q14) If you are aware of international or national human rights institutions, could you share some of their names?

Answer
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
Don't know _____
Refuse to Answer _____

Question (Q15) Are you aware of the work of the National Center for Human Rights

Yes		No			
If your answer yes, how do you rate your trust in this institution					
A great deal of trust	Quite a lot of trust	Neutral	Not a lot of trust	No trust at all	Refuse to answer

Question (Q16) Are you aware of the work of the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission

Yes		No			
If your answer yes, how do you rate your trust in this institution					
A great deal of trust	Quite a lot of trust	Neutral	Not a lot of trust	No trust at all	Refuse to answer

Question (Q17) Are you aware of the work of the Independent Election Commission

Yes		No			
If your answer yes, how do you rate your trust in this institution					
A great deal of trust	Quite a lot of trust	Neutral	Not a lot of trust	No trust at all	Refuse to answer

Question (Q18) I will present to you some statements. Please indicate whether you believe each statement is true or false based on your knowledge. Your honest responses will significantly contribute to our understanding of public awareness and perceptions regarding human rights.

	True	False	Refuse to answer
The National Center for Human Rights evaluates the situation of human rights in Jordan but does not receive individual complaints.			
An individual has the right to file a complaint against government agencies for harm to their rights to the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission.			
The law protects the confidentiality of those reporting cases of family violence.			
The Independent Electoral Commission is administratively affiliated with the Ministry of Interior.			
There is a specific law for the protection of persons with disabilities.			

Section Four: Respondents' Personal Engagement and Activities Regarding Human Rights Issues

This section focuses on the actual participation of youth in human rights issues, the types of activities they prefer, and understanding the purpose behind them.

Question (Q19) Are you a member of an organization, association or political party?

Yes	No
If, yes, it is a	
1	Union <input type="checkbox"/>
2	Syndicate (Professional Association) <input type="checkbox"/>
3	Political Party <input type="checkbox"/>
4	Association
5	Other; Specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/>

Question (Q20) Have you been involved in human rights-related activities in the past 12 months? (writing articles in newspaper, participation in online debate, participation in marches or demonstrations, signing of petitions, teaching/training, charitable activities etc.)

Yes,	No, go to question 22	Refuse to Answer, go to question 22
If yes, what was the topic of these activities? (Multiple answers can be selected):		
corruption, education, health, politics, women's rights, poverty, detention, torture Labor rights War Other, please specify _____		

Q21. How often do you participate in such activities?

Once a week

Several times a month

Once a month

Rarely

Q22. If you have not been involved, what is the primary reason? Please select all that apply.

Fear of harassment or threats

Concerns about disapproval from family or friends

Doubt about making a difference.

Lack of time

Not aware of opportunities to participate.

Other (please specify)

Social and Demographic Information**Question (Q23) Your marital status:**

	Answer
	1. Single (male)/Single (female)
	2. Engaged
	3. Married
	4. Separated
	5. Divorced
	6. Widowed
	7. Refuse to answer

Question (Q24) choose what applies

Difficulty	No Difficulty	Mild Difficulty	Significant Difficulty	Absolute Difficulty
1. I have physical difficulty				
2. I have mental difficulty				

Question (Q25) Economic Activity Status:

	Answer
1. Employed for wages	
2. Self-employed	
3. Unemployed	
4. Homemaker	
5. Unable to work/Disabled	
6. Student	
7. Other, please specify	

Question (Q26) Sector of Economic Activity	Answer
1. Public Sector (including Armed forces and Public Security)	
2. Private Sector (Including international organizations)	
3. self employed	
7. Other; Specify: _____	

Question (Q27) Family Income	Answer
1. Our income covers our expenses, and we are able to save	
2. Our income covers our expenses without notable difficulties	
3. Our income does not cover our expenses; we face some difficulties	
4. Our income does not cover our expenses; we face significant difficulties	
7. I don't know	
8. Refuse to answer	

Question (Q28) Your current Education	Answer
No formal education	
Elementary	
Secondary	
Mid-level diploma/professional or technical	
Bachelor's Degree	
Master's Degree and above	
Refuse to answer	

Qualitative tools:

Discussion Group Tool with Youth in Jordan's Governorates on: "Perspectives, Knowledge, and Perceptions of Youth on Human Rights Issues in Jordan"

Introduction: The Information and Research Center - King Hussein Foundation, in collaboration with the Danish Institute for Human Rights, is conducting a study on "Youth Perspectives, Knowledge, and Perceptions of Human Rights Issues in Jordan."

Today, we are here to conduct a focus group discussion to gain a deeper understanding of various human rights-related topics, including freedom of expression, political participation, access to information, women's rights, and other fundamental rights. Your responses will help us gain a more comprehensive understanding of human rights in Jordan from your perspective, explore your attitudes, perceptions, knowledge, and awareness on this topic, and shed light on your actual participation and preferred activities related to these issues.

We hope you will participate in this discussion, which will last between 45 minutes and an hour and a quarter. We ask for your permission to use a voice recording device to document the information shared during the discussion, noting that you have the full freedom to stop the recording at any time during the interview. You also have complete freedom to decide whether to introduce yourself or not. When transcribing the information, no names will be mentioned at all.

Your privacy and confidentiality are of utmost importance to us. All the information collected will be kept strictly confidential and used solely for the purposes of this study. We will ensure that your responses are anonymized and protected to prevent any unauthorized access.

1. General Information about Participants:

- (Age, nationality, educational level, occupation, marital status)

2. Understanding Human Rights:

- From your perspective, what does the term “human rights” mean to you? To what extent do you believe human rights are protected in Jordan? (Researcher: Please listen to the participants’ opinions without commenting or judging, but you may ask follow-up questions to understand the meaning they perceive.)

3. Addressing Human Rights Violations:

- If a member of the community experiences harm to their rights by a government institution, are there specific entities where they can file a complaint? If yes, where can they report it? If not, why don’t they report or file a complaint? (Researcher: Encourage them to talk about what comes to mind or what a person thinks of doing when they experience harm.)

4. Awareness of Major Human Rights Organizations in Jordan:

- Have you heard of the National Center for Human Rights, the Anti-Corruption Commission, or the Independent Election Commission? What do you know about them?
- Where do you usually get your information about human rights issues?
- In your opinion, do young people know about organizations like the National Center for Human Rights? Why or why not?
- How can human rights organizations better reach out to young people?

5. Awareness and Knowledge of International Human Rights Organizations:

- Based on the survey, it appears that very few young people are aware of international human rights organizations. Why do you think that is?
- Have you heard of organizations like the International Labour Organization, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, or Amnesty International? What do you know about them?
- What challenges do you think these international organizations face in reaching out to young people in Jordan?
- The survey showed slightly higher trust in Amnesty International compared to other organizations. Why do you think this is?

6. Understanding Civil Society Organizations:

- From your perspective, what do we mean by the term “civil society organizations in Jordan”? What is their nature of work? How do you assess people’s trust in them? (Researcher: Please listen to the participants’ opinions without commenting or correcting their information.)



7. Opinion on Survey Results:

- How do you interpret the survey results regarding attitudes toward gender equality, government intervention in the media, and the Cybercrime Law? (Researcher: We will mention each statement individually during the discussion and receive opinions, beliefs, and attitudes on each.)
- The vast majority of males and females (74% and 86%, respectively) hold positive views on the importance of living in a country that guarantees equality between men and women in rights. At the same time, 72% of males and 51% of females agree that women should always adhere to social customs and traditions. How do you interpret these results?
- 39% of males and 46% of females expressed supportive attitudes toward the requirement that individuals be arrested and imprisoned only by the judiciary, not by the Ministry of Interior or the administrative governor. At the same time, 71% of males and 65% of females agree with government intervention to prevent the media from publishing content that may undermine political stability. How do you interpret these results?
- About 40% of the sample agrees that the Cybercrime Law restricts freedom of expression. What is your understanding of this law?

8. Challenges to Human Rights in Jordan:

- In your opinion, what challenges hinder respect for human rights in Jordan? (Researcher: You may provide examples to stimulate the discussion, such as social traditions, family influence, conservative forces, security concerns, etc.)

9. Expressing Opinions on Human Rights:

- In your opinion, what are the means by which young people (both males and females) prefer to express their opinions on human rights issues? (Researcher: You may provide examples to stimulate the discussion, such as writing articles in newspapers or online platforms, social media, participating in marches or demonstrations, online debates, signing petitions, etc.)

10. Participation in Human Rights Organizations:

- Survey results showed that a very small percentage of young people (about 5%) are members of organizations working in the field of human rights (including human rights associations, political parties, labor unions, student unions, etc.).
- Why do you think so few young people participate in human rights organizations?
- What types of human rights organizations do you think would be more appealing to young people?
- What would encourage you or other young people to join a human rights organization?

11. Reasons for Low Participation Rates:

- According to the survey, a low percentage of young people reported participating in various activities in the past year (22.4% overall).
- Why do you think there is a low participation rate in human rights-related activities among young people?
- According to the survey, women tend to participate more in online activities (writing articles, online discussions), while men are more present in physical activities (workshops, volunteering). Why do you think there is a gender gap in the types of activities men and women participate in?

13. Regional Differences in Participation:

- Survey results showed a significant difference in the frequency of participation in human rights-related activities across different regions. People in the Central region participate more frequently, with some participating several times a month. In the Northern and Southern regions, participation is much lower, with most people participating rarely.
- Why do you think there is such a significant difference in participation rates between regions?
- Are there specific challenges or opportunities in your region that affect participation in human rights-related activities?

13. Addressing Barriers to Participation:

- Survey results highlighted several interesting points about the reasons for young people not participating in human rights-related activities. Here are some key findings:
- Gender gaps: Women are more likely than men to cite fear of harassment and threats, as well as family disapproval, as reasons for not participating. They are also more skeptical about the effectiveness of activism.
- Regional differences: People residing in the Central region participate more, but they also reported higher levels of fear (harassment, threats), social pressure (family disapproval), and skepticism about the effectiveness of participation. They also face greater time constraints and a lack of awareness of participation opportunities.
- What do you think about gender differences as reasons for not participating? Do you feel them?
- What are some specific examples of young people, especially women, fearing harassment and threats from participating in activism?
- How can we create a more supportive environment where young people feel comfortable participating in human rights-related activities, regardless of their gender or family background?
- The survey indicates a gap in awareness of activism or human rights-related activities, especially in the Central and Northern regions. What are some strategies for communicating with young people in these regions and informing them about how to participate?
- Participants from the Central region seem more skeptical about the effectiveness of activism. Have you noticed this? Why do you think this might be happening? How can we address this and encourage more participation?



Thank you for your valuable contributions to this discussion. Your opinions will help guide efforts to enhance and protect human rights in Jordan.

Additional Notes:

- The discussion guide uses open-ended questions to encourage participants to share their experiences and opinions.
- The researcher should listen attentively and avoid interrupting the participants.
- Follow-up questions can be used to explore interesting points more deeply or clarify responses.

Annex C List of Tables and Figures

Tables:

1. **Table 1:** Frequencies and Percentages of the Quantitative Study Sample Distribution Across the Regions of the Kingdom
2. **Table 2:** Demographics of the Sample Based on Family Income Level
3. **Table 3:** Distribution of Focus Group Discussions by Region and Gender
4. **Table 4:** Reasons for Non-Participation in Human Rights Activities by Gender

Figures:

1. **Figure 1:** Gender Distribution
2. **Figure 2:** Nationality
3. **Figure 3:** Education Level
4. **Figure 4:** Marital Status
5. **Figure 5:** Living in a Country where You Can Freely Express Opinions and Criticize the Government (by region)
6. **Figure 6:** Media Freedom without Censorship (by gender and region)
7. **Figure 7:** Government Control Over Media to Maintain Political Stability
8. **Figure 8:** Cybercrime Law's Restriction on Freedom of Expression
9. **Figure 9:** Living in a Country Ensuring Equality Between Women and Men
10. **Figure 10:** Social Norms and Traditions Impacting Gender Roles
11. **Figure 11:** Perceptions of Human Rights Compatibility with Jordanian Values and Traditions (by gender)
12. **Figure 12:** Regional Disparities in Perceptions of Human Rights Compatibility
13. **Figure 13:** Living in a Country where Individuals are Only Detained by the Judicial Authority
14. **Figure 14:** The Government May Use Torture to Obtain Information from Suspects

15. **Figure 15:** Level of Human Rights Protection in Jordan (Men and Region)
16. **Figure 16:** Level of Human Rights Protection in Jordan (Women and Region)
17. **Figure 17:** Level of Human Rights Protection in Jordan (by Education)
18. **Figure 18:** Reasons for Lack of Human Rights Protection (by Gender)
19. **Figure 19:** Reasons for Lack of Human Rights Protection (by Social Norms, Family Influences, etc.)
20. **Figure 20:** Reasons for Lack of Human Rights Protection (by Income)
21. **Figure 21:** Perceived Treatment of Youth
22. **Figure 22:** Perceived Treatment of Refugees
23. **Figure 23:** Perceived Treatment of Migrant Workers
24. **Figure 24:** Perceived Treatment of Religious Minorities
25. **Figure 25:** Familiarity with National or International Human Rights Institutions
26. **Figure 26:** Types of Organizations Respondents Belong To
27. **Figure 29:** Human Rights Topics of Engagement Among Jordanian Youth (Gender Breakdown)
28. **Figure 30:** Frequency of Participation in Human Rights Activities



