



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
& INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



International
Women's Day

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IN THE UAE



OVERVIEW

- Emirati women's achievements are the result of the UAE's vision first championed under the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President, continues this legacy that has contributed to strengthening women's role in all fields.
- Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union (GWU), President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, has also played a crucial role in supporting women as key partners in the UAE's national development.
- The UAE Constitution guarantees equal rights for women and men, and the country ranks high on many regional and global indicators of women's empowerment.
- Enhancing women's participation in all sectors is a key pillar of the UAE's community development strategy, including in the UAE Centennial 2071 Plan.

RANKINGS

- The UAE ranked first in the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law 2023 report, which evaluates countries' adoption of legislation aimed at protecting and empowering women economically.
- The UAE ranked first in the Arab world in the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Report 2022.
- The UAE ranked **24th** globally in the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security's 2021 WPS Index. The UAE was ranked first in terms of community safety, with **98.5%** of women saying they felt safe walking alone in their neighborhoods at night.

GOVERNMENT AND DIPLOMACY

- The UAE has created federal bodies such as the UAE Gender Balance Council, which works to position the country as a global model for gender balance. The Council was established in 2015 as a federal entity working to achieve gender balance in all UAE sectors and in decision-making.
- The percentage of women's representation in the Federal National Council is **50%**.
- Nearly one-third of the UAE Cabinet is made up of women in one of the highest rates in the world.
- Emirati women also represent the UAE in various international fora, including the Permanent Mission of the UAE to the United Nations in New York and the Permanent Mission of the UAE to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), which the UAE hosts.

WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE

- The UAE has implemented progressive gender balance legislation covering mandated equal pay, equal access to credit, and parental leaves. The maternity leave law offers 12 weeks of paid leave.
- In 2012, the UAE Cabinet made it compulsory for government bodies to include women on their boards of directors, joining Norway, Spain, France and other European nations that have similar requirements. The UAE was the first Arab country to adopt this regulation.
- Women have also made major strides in contributing to the UAE's national achievements, particularly in the space sector. Women made up **34%** of the Emirates Mars Mission team, **80%** of the Emirates Mars Mission's science team, and **70%** of the team behind the UAE Astronaut Program, which produced the first Emirati astronaut.

EDUCATION

- **95%** of female high school graduates pursue further education at tertiary-level institutions. Emirati women make up 70% of all university graduates.
- **56%** of the UAE's graduates in STEM courses at government universities are women.
- At the prestigious Masdar Institute of Science and Technology in Abu Dhabi, **60%** of Emirati graduate students are female.
- At two of the nation's three federal institutions of higher learning, women comprise between **80 and 90%** of the student population.

CLIMATE ACTION

- Women in the UAE play a crucial role in promoting climate action, particularly as the country prepares to host COP28 in November 2023.
- Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Almhairi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, follows up on the implementation of the country's plans and strategies in the areas of climate change, environment, and food and water security.
- The appointment of Her Excellency Shamma bint Suhail Al Mazrui, Minister of Community Development, as Youth Climate Champion and Her Excellency Razan Al Mubarak as UN Climate Change High-Level Champion demonstrates the UAE leadership's confidence in women's contributions to climate change mitigation.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- In 2004, the UAE became a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The UAE regularly participates in and hosts international conferences on women's issues and has signed all international treaties on protecting the rights of women.
- In 2010, the UAE supported the establishment of UN Women, a United Nations organization dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment.
- In 2016, the UAE opened a regional office for UN Women in Abu Dhabi, the first in the region.
- Her Excellency Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for Political Affairs and Permanent Representative of the UAE to the United Nations, previously served as President of the UN Women Executive Board.
- In September 2014, the UAE opened the Gulf's first military college for women, Khawla bint Al Azwar Military School. The state-of-the-art military college provides world-class training and leadership development for women in the region.
- In partnership with UN Women, the UAE launched the Fatima bint Mubarak Initiative for Women, Peace and Security to train women from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East to boost the number of qualified women working in the military, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding fields.
- The UAE was one of the main sponsors of the United Nations General Assembly resolution that designated June 24 as the International Day of Women in Diplomacy to recognize the role of women in supporting multilateralism and international cooperation.

