



Sultanate of Oman

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POSITION OF OMAN REGARDING RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN THE DRC



General information

Oman's 1996 Basic Law prohibits gender discrimination, they can vote, run for office, and have over 50% enrollment in higher education. Oman is an absolute monarchy, and the legal protections for women are often ignored by the regime, despite ratifying CEDAW in 2006. Women and girls remain underrepresented in decision making roles, with cultural and legal discrimination remaining and tribal politics still playing a role. There is no law criminalizing marital rape, and gender bias persists in laws around marriage, divorce, inheritance, and nationality.

Position on the matter

Omani law is grounded in Sharia and Islamic principles. As such they are likely to emphasize the importance of national sovereignty over the issue of gender equality. The country is also likely to focus on the role of women in restoring peace to the DRC. "Empowering women and ensuring their full, effective and safe participation in decision-making and peacebuilding are fundamental pillars for fostering a culture of peace based on justice, equality, dialogue and inclusive participation."

Proposed solutions

Current statistics on the participation of women in the workforce and education, as well as the country's history with gender policy suggest that Oman is likely to propose expanding robust school enrollment and higher education access for girls and young women as a tool for social uplift, as well as economic support for small women-owned businesses and craftswomen, especially in rural areas.

Potential Blocks

Oman is tightly connected with the Muslim world, including particularly strong military ties with Pakistan. While the country's stance on the DRC is neutral, its strong economic ties to Rwanda via investments in transport, aviation and telecommunications might lead to animosity due to the latter's alleged support for the M23 rebel group operating in the Eastern DRC.

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[Human Rights in Oman - Amnesty International](#)

[CEDAW - OHCHR](#)

[Gender Politics in Oman - Middle East Institute](#)

[Oman on Empowering Women](#)

[Oman Women's Empowerment at the UN - Oman Observer](#)

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