

Gender Equality as a Sustainable Development Objective: Representation in the Jordanian Parliament as a Model

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 20 Sep 2025

Accepted 10 Dec 2025

Published 01 Apr 2026

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Abstract

This study aims to identify gender equality within the United Nations' framework as one of the sustainable development objectives by examining gender representation in the Jordanian parliament as a model. The study adopts two methodologies: the descriptive-analytical approach, which described the fifth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 5), namely gender equality, in public office. It analyzes its impact on gender representation in the Jordanian Parliament. In addition, it explores the legal approach, by reviewing the most important legal texts that addressed gender equality, including the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Jordanian legislation. The results indicate that there has been notable interest in gender equality at both the international legislative level within the United Nations and the national legislative level of Jordan. Additionally, the findings reveal that the quota system has facilitated women's representation in the Jordanian parliament, particularly in the House of Representatives.

Keywords: Gender Equality, Sustainable Development, Political Representation, Jordanian Parliament, Quota System.

1. Introduction

The topic of sustainable development is among the most important global issues, receiving increased attention throughout the world, especially the member states in the United Nations. It is also considered as one of the international cooperation methods which aim to achieve sustainable development in the political, economic, social, cultural and health domains, where all these topics are included within sustainable development objectives approved by the United Nations in 2015, and will be regularly assessed in the various States across the world until 2030.

The approved objectives include the fifth objective of sustainable development, which is "gender equality". This objective includes more than one topic, including public positions or political representation, in addition to women's position within the political domain.

The tradition of having only men in the field of politics has been resisted by women who learn about their rights and freedoms. The limited number of female presidents, ministers, and legislators proves that men are still in control of politics. The empowerment of women is also

another issue that has arisen from the gap between men and women in political involvement (Nafe, 2020).

Gender equality has been widely discussed in all countries, at the internal and external levels, especially in terms of woman's status in the political domains, where many world organizations for women throughout the world have been established and called for equality between both males and females, where countries across the world have taken certain legislative procedures that contributed to alleviating discrimination between both genders; however, those procedures have been faced by social difficulties and barriers against women and their political representation, even though they have been given the right to participate in terms of voting and nomination.

Indeed, Jordan is amongst the countries that approved the objectives of sustainable development, where it set the required procedure before the official and unofficial bodies in the State in order to investigate and assess them, and achieve the targeted objectives at the legislative level, particularly in terms of the political representation that faced several obstacles relating to gender equality- this context has been evident in woman's representation in the Jordanian parliament (senate, representatives), as will be discussed in this study.

The current study will investigate the early interest in gender equality by reviewing the articles stated in the United Nations code and the international declaration of human rights. The study also addressed sustainable development objectives approved by the United Nations, in addition to the legislations of the Jordanian state and electoral law, which were used to assess the gender equality and women's representation in the Jordanian parliament (senate, representatives).

1.1 The Theoretical Framework and Previous studies

The equality principle is viewed as a framework for protecting rights and freedom, where it is the basic principle that overestimates international declarations for rights and constitutions in political systems. Equality principle is more concerned with giving equal rights to community individuals before law, whether it is an equality in rights or equality concerning public duties, with no distinction between them. The most common forms of equality are gender equality, which refers to equality between women and men, i.e., women have equal rights with men. Gender equality is a common objective in international codes and declarations, where the concept of gender equality has relatively developed from focusing on equality as a principle to achieving it as a target (Daif, 2018). Feminist theory facilitated achieving gender equality, where the general definition of feminism is based on believing that women are treated unequally for no reason other than being women in a community whose affairs and priorities are regulated based on men's perspectives and interests. Indeed, feminism is culturally a multi-faced movement, where its objectives gained a global support (Dalal, 2014). Furthermore, Oxford dictionary defines feminism as "believing that women have equal rights and opportunities to men in the various levels of practical and academic life".

Accordingly, it was suggested that feminism theory has several classifications: reformist feminism (liberal feminism, Marxist feminism, and socialist feminism), resistive feminism (radical feminism), rebel feminism (multiracial feminism, postmodern feminism, and Queer theory). The liberal feminism theory is relevant to our study, where it sought to improve the status of women in the public context of the current system without changing it or substituting it another system based on new social rules. Indeed, it changed several laws that were substituted later (Altarawneh, 2020).

1.1.1 Previous studies

Lima & Guedes (2024) conducted a study to examine sustainable development goals and gender equality following a social design approach. Gender equality is a central human aspect of sustainable development goals. Among its multiple complex issues, this research highlights gender-based violence as a domain that affects women's empowerment and the guarantees of an effective equality on numerous levels. To address such a complex structure, which perpetuates inequalities between men and women, generating multiple effects and jeopardizing social changes, social design can provide contributions on cultural and social levels. To achieve social systemic changes, one needs to activate profound cultural transformations.

Al-Billeh's (2023) conducted a study on Jordanian women's political participation in the nineteenth parliament elections (2020). This study seeks to explore the significance of Jordanian women's political engagement in parliamentary elections by assessing their participation rights, examining the process of women's candidacy within the quota system, and evaluating their representation in open electoral competition. The results indicated that the Parliament's Election Law granted Jordanian women the right to vote for membership in the Parliament while the Jordanian women participated as voters and candidates in the 19th Parliament elections for the year (2020).

Altarawneh's (2022) conducted a study to investigate the political participation of Jordanian and Bahraini women in parliamentary elections adopting descriptive and analytical approaches. The study seeks to identify the participation of Jordanian and Bahraini women, and their representation in the parliamentary elections during the period 1989-2018. The study used two approaches: the descriptive analytical method, and the comparative approach. The results showed that the reality of Jordanian women's participation and representation prior to the 2003 elections was very weak, and starting with those elections, women's quota seats were allocated for Jordanian women in the Jordanian Parliament. This is reflected in the increase in the participation and representation of Jordanian women in the parliamentary elections. With regard to the size of Bahraini women's participation and their representation in the parliamentary elections, their participation in the Parliament elections has improved since 2002, and their representation has improved since the 2006 elections. It was concluded that the participation and representation of Jordanian and Bahraini women in the parliamentary elections differed, as Jordanian women took women's quota seats, and for Bahraini women, they were not allocated a quota.

Sasse's (2021) conducted a study on sustainable development goals, and their dimensions overlap and impact; many studies found that the SDGs overlap with each other, whether at the level of goals, targets, or indicators. This overlap helps to understand and analyze the results of the goals more accurately. However, the studies did not focus on studying the overlap between goal groups and its dimensions. In this paper, the author proposes a tabulation based on the UN-approved division of goals, which divides them into 5 groups, along with dividing them into three dimensions. One of the findings of this paper based on the proposed "Sustainability Flower" model is that these goals are both comprehensive and overlapping, while each goal retains its distinctive character. The results also indicated that the presence of correlation between the three dimensions although they are independent of each other, they support each other at the same time.

This study is distinguished from previous studies:

- This study complements previous research that discussed representation in the Jordanian Parliament, as well as studies that addressed sustainable development and its effect on equality. Our study relied on them to present their findings in an analytical manner.
- This study addresses an important period in the Jordanian state during which the level of gender equality in the Jordanian Parliament was raised, as well as the period of political modernization in Jordan that began in 2021 and continues to this day.
- This study analytically examines the effect of Jordanian national legislation (the Constitution, Election Law, and the law of parties) on gender equality in the Jordanian political system.
- The study analyzes the numbers and percentages of men and women who gained representation in the Jordanian Parliament during the period (2016-2024). Even though the study started in 2015, the first considered elections were in 2016, one year after approving sustainable development objectives, including objective (5) relevant to equality.
- The study adds new knowledge regarding gender equality, one of the Sustainable Development Goals, by monitoring relevant progress made by the Jordanian state.

Gender Equality as Approved by the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

There has been more interest in the issues relating to human rights at the public and private levels. As for the public level, the United Nations is interested in assuring human rights in all ways, in addition to the other guarantees stated under the rules of public international law.

The United Nations code stated a number of articles related to human rights and gender equality. Article (3/1) stated the necessity of achieving international compliance in resolving international issues with social, economic, cultural, and human nature, and enhancing the respect of human rights, freedoms, and protections for women without discrimination based on gender, language, or religion. Article (13/1) stated the necessity of enhancing international compliance in the various social, economic, health, cultural and educational aspects, and enhancing the respect of human rights and freedoms to all people without discrimination based on gender, language, or religion, and no distinction between men and women. Article (3/55) recommended the necessity of necessity of enhancing the respect of human rights and freedoms to all people without discrimination based on gender, language, or religion, and no distinction between men and women, with actual consideration for those rights and freedoms. Article (3/76) stated the necessity of encouraging the respect of human rights and freedoms to all people without discrimination based on gender, language, or religion, and no distinction between men and women, in addition to enhancing the recognition between people across the world concerning the common sense that combines them with each other (Charter of the United Nations, 1945).

Indeed, the international law for human rights has been developed quickly due to the role played by the United Nations upon the general assembly of the United Nations' adoption for the international declaration of human rights in 1948, where the international declaration of human rights issued by the general assembly of the United Nations is viewed as the first international statement for human rights (Shawqi, 2019).

After the general assembly of the United Nations' approval for the international declaration of human rights, it was declared and the members States were urged to promote its content and discuss its articles, especially at schools and educational institutions without any discrimination concerning the political status of States or provinces (Al-Shammari, 2016).

The international declaration of human rights stated that since the United Nations' member states confirmed their deep belief in the basic human rights and dignity, as well as the equal rights for both men and women. In article (1) the declaration stated "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood". Article (2) stated that "without distinction of any kind such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion". In addition, article (21/2) stated that each person has equal rights with others, even holding public positions in his country. (The United Nations website, 2015), Accordingly, we can see that several articles addressed human rights (equality between males and females) as approved by the United Nations' code and the international declaration of human rights.

Gender Equality in the Light of Sustainable Development Objectives

Gender equality is a central human aspect of the Sustainable Development Goals (Lima & Guedes, 2024), A plan for international development was developed throughout the world, and it is hoped to be achieved by 2030. In this vein, 17 objectives were set and referred to as sustainable development objectives. These objectives passed through three stages that preceded the convention of 2015, as follows:

1. In 2012, the member states in the United Nations met in Rio De Janeiro to develop a new international agenda for sustainable development, where they agreed on a code entitled "the Future We Want", or the so-called Rio+20.
2. On August 2, 2015, the long-term negotiations resulted in positive outcomes, where all the countries across the world agreed on a document entitled "transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development".
3. The 2030 agenda was officially adopted on September 25, 2015, in the United Nations' conference, which was attended by 150 State presidents, and it included 17 objectives of sustainable development. (Sassi, 2021).

The manifestations of sustainable development focus on the main issues assigned by the committee of sustainable development in the United Nations, including social equality, public health, education, social diversity, production and consumption patterns, housing, security, population, and good living conditions (Al-Ghazawi and Al-Sharafat, 2014), The 17 objectives for sustainable development include sub-indicators that focus on the main requirements for each objective (Jordan and the Sustainable Development Goals, 2024).

The current study addressed the fifth objective entitled "gender equality". In this vein, some researchers suggested that even though the world has achieved a progress in gender equality according to the developmental objectives, there is still gender inequality in various countries across the world. Indeed, this may deprive women from obtaining their basic rights and opportunities, as violence and discrimination are still practiced against females in various regions across the world (Al-Omari, 2021).

The United Nations' report concerning the fifth objective "gender equality" suggested that there is relative progress throughout the world concerning gender equality. The fifth objective implies that gender equality is a basic human right, and enhancing gender equity is an important issue in all the domains. The United Nations suggested that women gained more representation at the political level as compared to any other time (The United Nations website).

According to the United Nations' reports concerning sustainable development objectives, there has been an increase in the ratio of seats obtained by women in the national parliaments with one chamber or the lower councils in the national parliaments with two chambers with about 23% in 2016, representing an increase of 6 percentile points during the whole decade (The United Nations , 2016), The United Nations' report of 2017 concerning sustainable development objectives confirmed that men still dominate the aspects of political and economic authority, where woman's representation in the parliament or the lower parliamentary councils was only 23.4% in 2017 throughout the world, with a 10% increase as compared to the year 2000. The report suggested that the assigned quota for enhancing woman's political participation was influential (The United Nations, 2017), The United Nations' report of 2019 suggested that the percentage of woman's representation in the legislative commissions ranged between (0%– 61.3%), with a mean of (24.3%), representing a 5 % increase as compared to 2010 (The United Nations, 2019).

In 2021, woman's representation was highly unequal to that of men, where woman's global mean in the national parliamentary councils with one chamber was only (25.6%), whereas the percentage reached (36.3%) in the local commissions, indicating that the ascending direction is slow. The report suggested that gender equality in the national parliaments requires 40 years to be achieved, and 23 countries that adopted the quota system had a 40% woman's representation in councils. In 2020, the percentage of women's representation in the quota-adopting countries reached 27.4%, as compared to 15.6% in the countries that didn't adopt such a quota (The United Nations , 2021), In 2022, woman's quota in the national parliaments or the uni-chamber parliaments reached 26.2% as compared to 22.4% in 2015 (The United Nations , 2022), The 2023 report showed a slight increase in woman's quota concerning the political representation, where the national women's quota was 26.5% in 2023 with a slight improvement of about 4.2% as compared to 2015 (The United Nations , 2023), In 2024, woman's representation was still limited, with a 26.9% of representation in the national parliaments (The United Nations , 2024).

Accordingly, we can see that gender equality has not been achieved yet, where it could take several years to achieve this objective in the light of the current circumstances facing women at the global level, especially in the countries that have gained independence recently, as the masculine nature is more dominant in such countries.

Gender Equality in Jordan within the Legislative Domain

While addressing this topic, we should review the legislative frame that regulates human rights in the country in general, and the political rights to all people in the Jordanian State in particular. In this section, we will review the most important issues related to gender equality in the Jordanian constitution with its amendments in 2022 and the election law for the Jordanian parliament in 2022. The Jordanian constitution included several public freedoms and rights in the second chapter, entitled "the rights and duties of male and female Jordanians" in order to confirm the rights and duties of women explicitly. Even though the articles of this chapter didn't mention the exact word of female Jordanians (Ordoniyat), and only stated the male word (Ordoniyn), such an expression is acceptable, since the word (Ordoniyn) is used to refer to both male and female

Jordanians, especially in the laws derived from constitution, and more precisely electoral law that confirms the rights of the Jordanian woman in voting and nomination.

Article (1/6) of the Jordanian Constitution stated that all Jordanians are equal before law, with no distinction between them in rights and duties, regardless their race, language, or religion. Article (1/6) stated that each Jordanian has the right to hold public positions as approved by law or systems (Official newspaper, 2022).

The Jordanian election law included several articles, particularly concerning gender equality and holding public positions in the parliament, where the Jordanian woman has been granted quota seats. The quota system started in 2003, with 3 seats, and the number of seats increased to be 15 seats (Altarawneh, 2022) in the elections of 2016 and 2020.

As for gender equality in the latter law upon which the Jordanian house of representatives was elected in 2024, section (8/b) granted the Jordanian woman 18 seats divided to all the electoral circles in which elections are performed based on the system of open relative list. Section (1/c) of the same article stated that one woman, at least, should be amongst the first three candidates concerning nomination according to the system of closed relative list (Official newspaper, Election Law, 2022).

As for the Jordanian political party's law No. 7 of 2022, article (11), section (a), clause 4, stated that the ratio of women should not be less than (20%) from the total number of founders. Article (15/y) of the same article implied assuring the right of the youth and female members to hold the leading positions in the party (Independent Election Commission, 2022).

Based on the above-mentioned, we can notice that the legislator considered the issue of gender equality seriously in relation to political representation or holding higher positions, where the enshrined legislations achieved gender equality by assigning certain constitutional articles and specific laws in order to protect the rights of the Jordanian woman in the House of Representatives.

Gender Equality in the Jordanian Parliament

The Jordanian parliament consists of the house of senates, and the House of Representatives. The senate has a president and members who are appointed by the king, where the number of the senate should not exceed half the number of representatives; therefore, the number of the senate house is not limited in the Jordanian constitution. However, the members of the House of Representatives are elected secretly and directly by citizens (Al-Khatib, 2024).

We noticed that there has not been a direct or explicit statement of (males and females) concerning the structure of the parliament, considering that as reality according to the laws derived from the constitution, particularly those related to the election law for the Jordanian parliament.

Indeed, woman's representation in the Jordanian parliament, either as senates or representatives is considered as a manifestation of women's political empowerment, and an indicator for the respect of human rights in general, and women's rights in particular. Gaining such high positions enhances woman's political participation, eliminates the various types of discrimination against women, and changes the negative stereotypical image of women as low-rank individuals (Al-Adwan, 2017), in the community. The following table shows gender representation in the Jordanian house of senates.

Table (1): Gender representation in the Jordanian house of senates (2016-2024)

Council	Year	Males	Females	Total
twenty-seventh	2016	55	10	65
twenty-eighth	2020	58	7	65
twenty-ninth	2022	55	10	65
Thirtieth	2024	59	10	69

Source: (Official website of the Jordanian Senate).

The previous table shows that men's representation was higher than women's representation in the four appointed councils. It can be noticed that women gained (15%) in the 27th council, 10% in the 28th council, and (15%) in the 29th council.

As for men, they gained (84%) in the 27th council, 89% in the 28th council, and (84%) in the 29th council. As for the 30th council, the number of senates increased as compared to the previous councils, where the number increased to 69 members due to the increase in the number of representative house members, with 138 members. As stated by Constitution, the number of the senates should not exceed half the number of representatives. In 2024, women gained 14%, whereas men gained 86% of the total seats.

Table (2): Gender representation in the Jordanian House of Representatives (2016-2024)

Council	Year	Males	Females	Total
Eighteenth	2016	110	20	130
Nineteenth	2020	115	15	130
Twentieth	2024	111	27	138

Source: (Al-Mashaqbeh, 2017), (Al-Billeh, 2023), (Official Gazette, 2024).

The previous table shows that women gained (15%) of the total seats in the 18th council, 13% in the 19th council, and (19%) in the 20th council held in 2024. Accordingly, we can see that woman's representation in the Jordanian parliament descended in certain times, but ascended in others, knowing that women's representation in that 18th council was 15 quota seats and 5 free-competition seats. In the 19th council, women only gained the 15 quota seats, while they gained 18 quota seats and 9 additional seats in the 20th council.

Indeed, the 20th council witnessed the highest representation for the Jordanian women over the history of the Jordanian parliaments since they were granted the right of voting and nomination in 1974 (The Jordanian National Commission for Women, 2024).

In the same vein, men gained (85%) in the 18th council, 87% in the 19th council, and 81% in the 20th council.

The Jordanian woman faces several obstacles concerning political representation. These obstacles are represented by the social, political, cultural, mediatic and economic factors, in addition to women's lack of awareness about their political role (Al-Khalayleh, 2014), Furthermore, the lack of women's effectiveness in the political life, particularly in the political parties, is amongst the main obstacles facing women in political representation.

2. Statement of the problem

The study problem lies in investigating the concept of equality as one of sustainable development objectives stated in the United Nations' framework by applying it to the

representation of men and women in the Jordanian parliament, represented by the senate and the House of Representatives. The study seeks to clarify the role of the international legislations regarding gender equality, and the Jordanian legislations that are interested in gender equality related to holding public positions, especially in relation to the representation of both genders.

2.1 Research questions

The study aims to provide answers to the following research questions:

1. How did the United Nations' code and the international declaration of human rights state gender equality?
2. What is the meaning of gender equality according to sustainable development objectives?
3. How did the Jordanian legislations state gender equality?
4. What is the reality of gender equality in terms of representation in the Jordanian parliament?

3. Objectives and Significance of the study

3.1 Objectives

The objectives of this study are provided below:

1. Identifying gender equality in the light of the United Nations' code and the international declaration of human rights.
2. Identifying gender equality according to sustainable development objectives.
3. Identifying gender equality in the Jordanian legislations.
4. Identifying gender equality in terms of representation in the Jordanian parliament.

3.2 Significance of the study

The study importance lies in assessing gender representation in the Jordanian parliament, considering it as one of the official institutions in the Jordanian political system, which enjoys a high position with regard to the public positions and political representation despite the way of holding such positions represented by appointment in the house of senates and elections in the house of representatives, in addition to identifying this topic considering it as an integral part of sustainable development objectives approved by the United Nations, since gender equality is a basic element for achieving social justice and enhancing equal-participation opportunities in the various life domains, particularly political life.

4. Methodology

The study employs a descriptive-analytical approach, which examines the phenomenon as it exists in reality (Malih & Al-Asouli, 2020). As gender equality is one of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015, the analysis covers gender representation in the Jordanian Parliament (the Senate and the House of Representatives) as well as the legal sphere. This type of examination is used in political studies (Al-Khawaldeh, 2019), by demonstrating the most important articles in the international legislations (the United Nations, the international declaration of human rights) in terms of gender equality, and showing the legislations in the Jordanian State, and how they stated gender equality in terms of representation in the Jordanian parliament.

4.1 The study period

The themes covered are the United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals, gender representation in the Jordanian Senate and House of Representatives. While the spatial boundaries are the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, temporal boundaries cover 2015–2024. This period was selected for conducting the study since sustainable development objectives were first approved in 2015, and the reports related to each objective were prepared until 2024. The issued reports about equality in most political systems were reviewed. Also, this period was selected as it represents the important period during which the Jordanian election laws were amended and finally peaked by the issuance of the latest election law in 2022, in accordance to which the Jordanian elections were held in 2024.

5. Discussion

Based on the questions raised by the study, the following conclusions have been reached. Firstly, the United Nations' code stated the necessity of enhancing respect to human rights and freedoms to all people without discrimination between men and women. This principle has been advocated after the United Nations General Assembly's approval of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. The Declaration grants equal rights for individuals (men and women) to hold public positions. Secondly, the Sustainable Development Goals were set in 2015, and they should be monitored until 2030. They include 17 goals, with SDG 5 stating gender equality that encompasses all the levels inside the State and holding political positions. It is noteworthy that several political systems throughout the world, including that of Jordan, started addressing the issue of gender equality prior to setting these objectives, in accordance with the approved commitments in the United Nations' code. Actually, these goals, including SDG5, are viewed as a plan through which related issues and matters are phrased accurately. Thirdly, SDG5 clearly states that gender equality is a basic human right. The Jordanian legislation, including the constitution, and the two laws of Election and Political Parties, address the issue of gender equality in representation. In this vein, since 2003, the Election Law has included the quota system after the failure of the previous attempts for sufficient representation of woman in the Jordanian parliament. The quota system was applied to ensure their representation in the House of Representatives. It was valid until the latest Election Law in accordance with which the 2024 elections were held, where 18 seats were assigned to women in all the electoral circles, in addition to their right to compete freely outside the quota system. Also, the law assures nominating, at least, a woman among the first three candidates in the closed relative list. As for the Political Parties Law, the latest amendment emphasizes gender equality by stating that 20% of the founder members of any party should be women.

Based on our review of gender equality, particularly the representation in the Jordanian parliament (senate, representatives), we noticed a low level of woman's representation as compared to men. Even though the number of the senate is equal to half the number of representatives, the increase in the House of Representatives' seats has not significantly affected women's representation in the house of senate as compared to men. We also found that there would not be any seats in the House of Representatives without the quota system, except for their noticeable representation in the elections of 2024 as compared to the previous elections. Actually, the two new election laws contributed to this progress, where they confirmed the importance of women's presence to assure her right in political representation. However, the issue of gender equality in

Jordan, particularly in relation to women's representation in political positions is still limited due to several barriers, including social barriers.

6. Conclusion

Since its main goals were set in 2015, sustainability has gained much attention. Among these goals, SDG 5, which focuses on Gender Equality, has particular importance, especially in public leadership roles. This study explored gender equality as a main aspect of sustainable development, using gender representation in the Jordanian Parliament as a case study. Through employing a descriptive-analytical and legal approach, the study examined both international and national laws related to gender equality, as well as the actual representation of women in Jordan's Senate and House of Representatives from 2016 to 2024. The findings reveal a strong international commitment to gender equality, clearly stated in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and outlined as Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5). These foundational documents frame gender equality not just as a principle but as essential for universal human rights and sustainable development. On the national level, Jordan has reflected this commitment in its legal framework, with the Constitution, the Election Law, and the Political Parties Law all designed to enhance women's political participation and representation. The changes to the Election Law, especially the expansion and refinement of the quota system since 2003, demonstrate a deliberate effort to address historical underrepresentation in the House of Representatives.

However, despite the attention given to this issue in UN frameworks and national laws, challenges remain regarding women's representation in public positions globally. In Jordan, there are some positive legislative measures, but gender parity in the National Assembly has yet to be achieved. The 2024 elections for the House of Representatives did show an increase in women's representation, but a gap remains compared to their male counterparts. Similarly, women's presence in the Senate, although present, continues to lag behind that of men. This ongoing disparity stems from a mix of social, political, cultural, media-related, and economic barriers, along with a need for greater awareness among women about their political rights.

7. Recommendations

In the light of the results, the study recommended: It is necessary to urge the public institutions in charge of representation, particularly the legislative authority, to raise awareness of the importance of gender equality at the political level. It is also important to follow the sustainable development objectives in the academic curricula of public and private colleges and universities, in a bid to maintain the quota system in the Jordanian election law.

Acknowledgments

I extend my sincere thanks to the reviewers and the editor-in-chief for their valuable comments on the initial draft of this research paper.

Ethical Approval

This study was conducted in accordance with the principles of academic integrity and research ethics. All the data sources and materials used in the research were handled responsibly and with due regard for intellectual property rights. The research process adhered to the principles of accuracy, transparency, and reliability to ensure the integrity of the findings.

Data Availability Statement

The datasets collected and analyzed during this study are available from the researcher upon request.

Funding

No funding was received for conducting this research.

Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest in this study.

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