

Women were less enthusiastic to run as candidates for municipal elections (2.4 percent of the total 2003 candidates) than for the Lower House elections.

Table 3.11: Municipal Election Candidates by Governorate and Sex, 2003

Governorate	Sex		Total	Female (%)
	Male	Female		
Amman Municipal Council	96	0	96	0.0
Amman governorate municipalities	145	5	150	3.3
Balqa	133	4	137	2.9
Zarqa	105	5	110	4.5
Madaba	79	4	83	4.8
Irbid	400	12	412	2.9
Mafraq	171	4	175	2.3
Jerash	76	1	77	1.3
Ajloun	122	4	126	3.2
Karak	164	1	165	0.6
Tafila	50	0	50	0.0
Ma'an	44	0	44	0.0
Aqaba	25	0	25	0.0
Total	1610	40	1650	2.4

Source: Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

from running in municipal elections. Out of the total number of candidates for the 2003 elections, only 2.4 percent were women. In other words, women were less enthusiastic to run for municipal elections than Lower House elections.

The proportion of women who ran as candidates for the 2003 municipal elections varied markedly by governorate. It ranged

from 0.6 percent in the Karak governorate to 4.8 percent in the Madaba governorate. Additionally, no women ran as municipal election candidates in the Amman municipality or the governorates of Tafila, Ma'an and Aqaba.

Table 3.12 displays candidates who won in the 2003 municipal elections according to municipality and sex. Figures in the table show that a very small proportion of women candidates (0.9 percent of the total number of candidates) won in these elections and that the successful women candidates constituted 12.5% of the total number of women candidates. Thus, around 87% of the female candidates were not successful in the 2003 municipal elections.

Moreover, women had no success at all in the governorates of Amman, Madaba, Mafraq, Jerash and Karak. It could be said, however, that women's mere participation in the municipal elections is a very important step even if they fail, since their participation will increase awareness among women of their particular social issues and their need to take part in decisions related to them.

Fig. 3.9: Percentage Distribution of Municipal Election Candidates by Sex, 2003

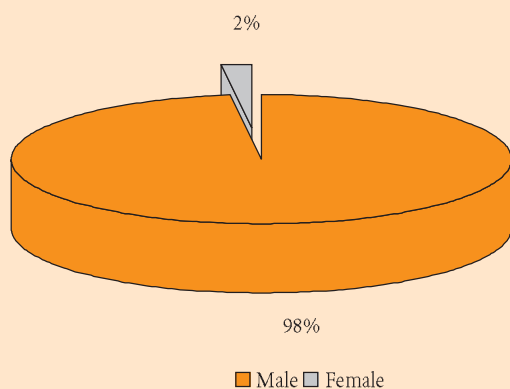


Table 3.12:
Successful Municipal Election Candidates by Governorate and Sex, 2003

Governorate	Sex		Total	Female (%)
	Male	Female		
Amman Municipality Council	20	0	20	0.0
Amman governorate municipalities	44	0	44	0.0
Balqa	66	1	67	1.5
Zarqa	41	1	42	2.4
Madaba	22	0	22	0.0
Irbid	121	2	123	1.6
Mafraq	80	0	80	0.0
Jerash	28	0	28	0.0
Ajloun	26	1	27	3.7
Karak	61	0	61	0.0
Tafila	19	0	19	0.0
Ma'an	36	0	36	0.0
Aqaba	19	0	19	0.0
Total	583	5	588	0.9

Source: Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For the purpose of increasing both men's and women's participation and activating their role in the community, the government appointed a number of men and women as members in various municipality councils.

Table 3.13 presents the number of those appointed to municipal councils in 2003.

Data indicates that the proportion of women appointed by the government

Almost all successful candidates in municipal elections (99%) were men, while the proportion of successful women did not exceed 1 percent.

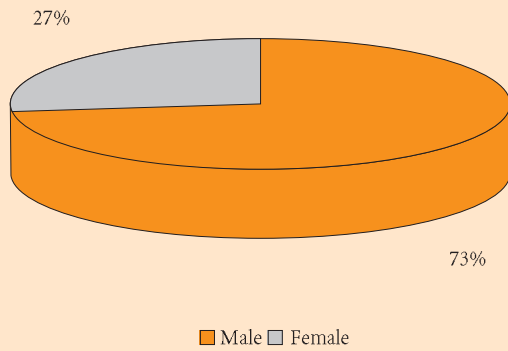
Table 3.13:
Members Appointed to Municipal Councils by Governorate and Sex, 2003

Governorate	Sex		(% Female)
	Male	Female	
Amman Municipality Council	17	3	15.0
Amman governorate municipalities	29	8	21.6
Balqa	37	9	19.6
Zarqa	33	6	15.4
Madaba	14	4	20.7
Irbid	73	19	20.7
Mafraq	60	17	22.1
Jerash	16	5	23.8
Ajloun	17	4	19.1
Karak	34	9	20.9
Tafila	14	5	26.3
Ma'an	23	7	23.3
Aqaba	8	6	42.9
Total	375	102	27.2

Source: Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

Men constitute more than two-thirds (2/3) of the total municipal council members appointed by the government in 2003, compared to 27% women.

Fig. 3.10:
Percentage Distribution of Appointed Members in Municipal Councils by Sex, 2003



reached 27% of the total number of appointed members. It is noteworthy that these women were appointed as council members and that one woman was appointed Council Chair for the Al-Hasa Municipality in the governorate of Tafila.

The proportion of appointed women varied considerably by governorate, ranging from 15% in the Amman Municipality Council to around 43% in the Aqaba municipality. Generally, though, the largest proportion of appointed members (73%) were men.

Women in Professional Associations

Despite the large proportion of women who are members in a number of syndicates, a study on women and professional associations indicates that their participation in work in leading syndicates is still very low. This is due, in part, to the number of social constraints women are subject to, such as the need for them to perform household duties, which affect their roles and participation in professional associations' work and activities.

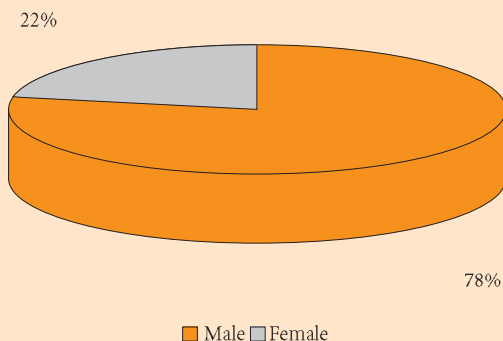
Table 3.14 displays the number of registered members in various professional asso-

Table 3.14:
Members Registered in Professional Associations by Gender, 1997 and 2002

Association	1997			2002		
	Men	Women	Women (%)	Men	Women	Women (%)
Physicians	11,089	1636	12.8	9511	1624	14.6
Dentists	2200	1000	31.1	3178	1357	29.9
Nurses	1716	4575	72.7	3045	5192	63.0
Veterinarians	553	57	9.3	821	160	16.3
Pharmacists	2732	2028	45.0	4224	3455	45.0
Engineers	35,170	3242	8.4	45,059	5775	11.4
Agricultural engineers	4409	1596	26.6	6359	2721	30.0
Journalists	304	61	16.7	454	89	16.4
Law	4214	776	15.5	4443	886	16.6
Total	62,387	14,971	19.4	77,094	21,259	21.6

Source: Various professional associations.

Fig. 3.11:
Percentage Distribution of Registered Members of Professional Associations by Sex, 2002



ciations for which data was available in 1997 and 2002 according to sex. The figures show that the proportion of women registered with professional associations in Jordan rose from 19% of the total registered members in 1997 to 22% in 2002.

A considerable increase (27%) in the number of registered syndicate members can be seen between the abovementioned years, as well. However, there were differences between the number of men and women registering in both years. On the whole, women have been much more likely than men to register and join syndicates (42% and 24%, respectively).

The proportion of women registered with professional syndicates varied between the years 1997 and 2002. The number of women registered with the Dentists Association dropped by one percentage point (from 31% in 1997 to 30% in 2002), and those registered with the Nursing Association dropped by 10 percentage points (from 73% to 63% between 1997 and 2002). This decrease is likely to do with either an increase in the number of males registering, a decrease in the number of females registering, or both.

On the other hand, the proportion of women registered with other associations

showed varied increases in 2002 compared to 1997, particularly in the Veterinarians Syndicate, where the proportion rose by 7 percentage points (from 9.3 percent in 1997 to 16.3% in 2002).

In these associations' Boards of Directors, women were represented only in the Bar (Law) Association (one woman out of 11 members) and in the Pharmacists' Association (one woman out of 10 members).

Women and Political Parties

The data in Table 3.15 clearly indicates

The proportion of women registered with professional associations rose from 19% of the total number of registered members in 1997 to 22% in 2002.

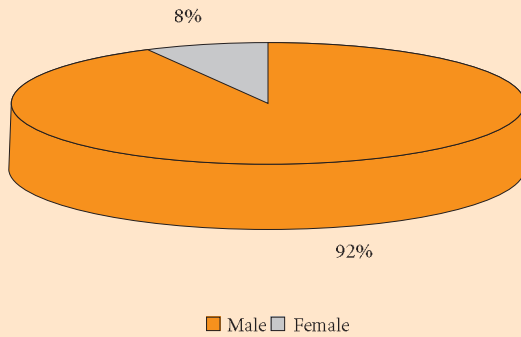
Table 3.15:
Founding Members of Jordanian Political Parties by Sex, 2002

Party	Sex			Total	(%) Female
	Male	Female	Total		
Jordanian Socialist Arab Ba'ath	75	0	75	0.0	
Jordanian Democratic People's	88	12	100	12.0	
Future	154	4	158	2.5	
Democratic Popular Unity	89	5	94	5.3	
Jordanian Communist	66	5	71	7.0	
Islamic Work Front	301	11	312	3.5	
Progressive	54	5	59	8.5	
Progressive Arab Ba'ath	76	0	76	0.0	
Democratic Islamic Arab Movement	61	11	72	15.3	
Liberal (Ahrar)	52	53	105	50.5	
Al-Ummah	57	2	59	3.4	
Jordanian Arab Ansar	79	6	85	7.1	
Jordanian Peace	90	16	106	15.1	
Jordanian People's Committee Movement	61	4	65	6.2	
Jordanian Welfare (Rafah)	39	14	53	26.4	
Islamic Wasat	115	7	122	5.7	
Jordanian Nahdha	218	18	236	7.6	
Jordanian Arab New Fajr	70	0	70	0.0	
Jordanian Generations	56	4	60	6.7	
Jordanian Khodr	53	4	57	7.0	
Jordanian Communist Workers	48	5	53	9.4	
Jordanian Citizens' Rights Movement	51	2	53	3.8	
Popular Democratic National Movement	55	8	63	12.7	
Jordanian Labor	60	4	64	6.3	
Arab Land	63	4	67	6.0	
National Labor	65	1	66	1.5	
Constitutional Arab Jordanian Front	62	3	65	4.6	
Jordanian Democratic Left	276	1	277	0.4	
Constitutional National	909	41	950	4.3	
Jordanian Arab	43	9	52	17.3	
Al- Risalah	52	10	62	16.1	
Total	3538	269	3807	7.1	

Source: Ministry of Interior.

Women constitute a minority (7 percent) of the members in Jordanian political party founding committees.

Fig. 3.12:
Percentage Distribution of Political Party Founding Committees by Sex, 2002



that women took part in the founding committees for 28 out of 31 political parties. The proportion of women members in these committees is 7 percent of the total number of members. As the table shows, no women were involved in founding The Jordanian Socialist Arab Ba'ath Party, The Progressive Arab Ba'ath Party and The Jordanian Arab New Fajr Party. Women's presence in the

founding committees of various political parties varied noticeably, with a range from 0.4 percent in the Jordanian Democratic Left Party to around 51% in the Liberal (Ahrar) Party.

Women in Non-Governmental Organizations

Jordanian society takes a different view of women's participation in voluntary work, which is usually run by non-governmental organizations (NGO's). The 1996 Jordan Living Conditions Survey carried out by the Department of Statistics pointed out that one-third (1/3) of men aged 15 and over disapproved of women's participation in voluntary work and that one in ten women shared this opinion. Table 3.16 presents the distribution of voluntary organization members in 2002 by gender.

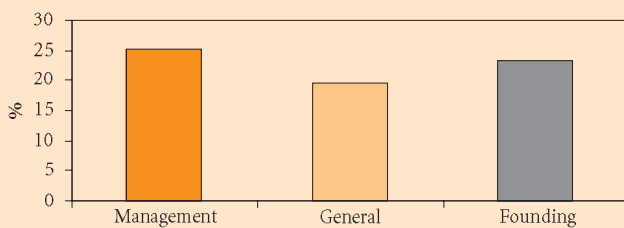
The table shows that women constitute 25% of the number of members of management committees and 23% of the total number of founding committee members.

Table 3.16:
Members of Voluntary Committees in Jordan by Sex, 2002

Committee	Urban		Rural		Badia		Total		(%) Women
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
Management	2721	1136	1885	442	387	100	4993	1678	25.2
General	61,258	14,097	19,558	5401	2268	657	83,084	20,155	19.5
Founding	7014	2657	7591	1761	1973	583	16,578	5001	23.2

Source: Ministry of Social Development.

Fig. 3.13:
Percentage of Women Members in Voluntary Committees



It is assumed that women's high proportion in these committees enables them to better practice their rights in making decisions or at least in taking part in making them.

Furthermore, the proportion of rural women members in management, general and founding committees reached 26%, 27% and 35%, respectively, of the total number of women committee members. These high proportions reflect rural women's growing awareness of their communities' needs and their tendency to join voluntary committees despite the fact that Jordan's rural population constitutes only 21% of the total population.

Table 3.17:
Number of Newspaper Chief Editors by Sex, Gender Gap and Newspaper's Periodic Issue, 1998 and 2003

Newspaper's Periodic Issue	1998			2003		
	Men	Women	Gender Gap	Men	Women	Gender Gap
Daily	7	0	1.0	4	*1	0.60
Weekly	13	1	0.86	18	0	1.0
Total	20	1	0.91	22	1	0.91

Source: Ministry of Information, 1998 and 2003.

* Acting Chief Editor

Women and Journalism

Journalism is one of the most important aspects of media. Hence, the larger the proportion of women represented in journals' Boards of Directors, the greater the effect they will have in forming public opinion. Table 3.17 presents the distribution of chief editors of Jordan's daily and weekly newspapers in 1998 and 2003 by sex.

The data shows that there was only one female chief editor in both 1998 and 2003. The 1998 gender gap reveals that women were totally absent as chief editors in daily newspapers and also that the gender gap for weekly newspapers is greatly biased in favor of men. However, the gender gap in 2003 decreased as a result of a woman's appointment as chief editor of a daily. In 2003, no woman was a chief editor in any of the weekly newspapers.