**Reservations to Art. 2 and family related ones**

Algeria: Art 2, Family Code; Art 16, Family Code
Bahamas: Art 2(a); Art 9(2) (nationality)
Barhain: Art 2, Islamic Shariah; Art 9(2); Art 15(2) (residence/domicile); Art 16, Shariah
Bangladesh: Art 2 and Art 16(c) (rights and responsibility in marriage), Shariah
Brunei: generally, Shariah, Art 9(2)
Democratic Republic of Korea: Art 2(f); Art 9(2)
Egypt: Art 2, Shariah; Art 16, Shariah
Iraq: Art 2(f), (g), Art 16
Ireland: Art 15 (new law is pending); Art 16 (guardianship, adoption, out of wedlock)
Jordan: Art 9(2); Art 16(1)(c) (compensation); Art 16(1)(d), (g)
Kuwait: Art 9(2); Art 16(f), Shariah
Lebanon: Art 9(2); Art 16(1)(c), (d)
Libya*: Art 2, Shariah; Art 16(c) and (d), Shariah
Malaysia: Art 9(2); Art 16(1)(a), (c), (f), (g)
Mauritania: entire Convention, Shariah
Morocco*: entire Convention, Shariah; Art 15(4) (residence/domicile)
Niger: Art 2(d), (f), Art 5(a) (change social/culture); Art 15(4) (residence/domicile); Art 16(1)(c), (e), (g)
Oman: entire Convention, Shariah; Art 9(2); Art 15(4); Art 16(a), (c), (f)
Pakistan: entire Convention, Declaration-Pakistani Constitution
Qatar: Art 2(a), Constitution Art 8; Art 9(2); Art 15(1), (4); Art 16(1)(a), (c), (f)
Saudi Arabia: entire Convention, Shariah; Art 9(2)
Singapore: Art 2(a)-(f); Art 16(1)(a), (c), (h); Art 16(2)
Switzerland: Art 15(2), Art 16(1)(h)
Syria: Art (2); Art 15(4); Art 16(1)(c)-(g)
Tunisia: Art 9(2); Art 16(c)-(g); Art 15(4), Declaration-Personal Status Code
United Arab Emirates: Art 2(f); Art 9; Art 15(2); Art 16;
United Kingdom and Northern Ireland: Art 9, transitional measures; Art 16 (different criteria re interests of the child custody) [other reservations with spec. reasons, but not interesting]
Yemen: has only made a reservation to Art. 29

**Summary regarding reservations made to Article 2 and family-related Articles**

Many MENA states have made key reservations relevant to VAW, specifically to **Art. 2**, which weakens their obligations generally under CEDAW; to **Art. 2(f)**, which concerns the elimination of discriminatory regulations, customs and practices; and to **Art. 16(e)**, which guarantees equal rights and responsibilities in marriage and in its dissolution.

**Summary regarding non-ratification patterns:** All the above MENA countries have not ratified CEDAW-OP though they are members of CEDAW. The two

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exceptions are Lybia and Morocco, which have ratified the Optional Protocol. 105/186 of CEDAW ratifiers have also ratified the OP.²

**Countries that have not ratified CEDAW³**

Holy See  
Iran  
Niue  
Palau  
Somalia  
South Sudan  
Sudan  
Tonga  
USA

**Summary:** Only 7 countries have not ratified CEDAW⁴ 
(the Holy See and Niue (which is associated with New Zealand) are often not included in the count)

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² United Nations Treaty Collection, (status of Optional Protocol to CEDAW by State Party (e.g., ratification and reservations),
International Network for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and International Women’s Rights Action Watch Asia-Pacific, “Part Four: OP to the CEDAW,” Claiming Women’s Economic and Social Rights, pg 32, (2013), (105/186 signatories to ratifiers of CEDAW have ratified the CEDAW-OP),
³ UNOHCR, Reporting Status by State Party, ohchr.org, (2013),
lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/TreatyBodies/Documents/ReportingStatus2013.xls
⁴ CEDAW 2014, CEDAW by the Numbers, womenstreaty.org, (187/194 countries have ratified CEDAW),