

## **Yemeni Women in Judicial Authority**

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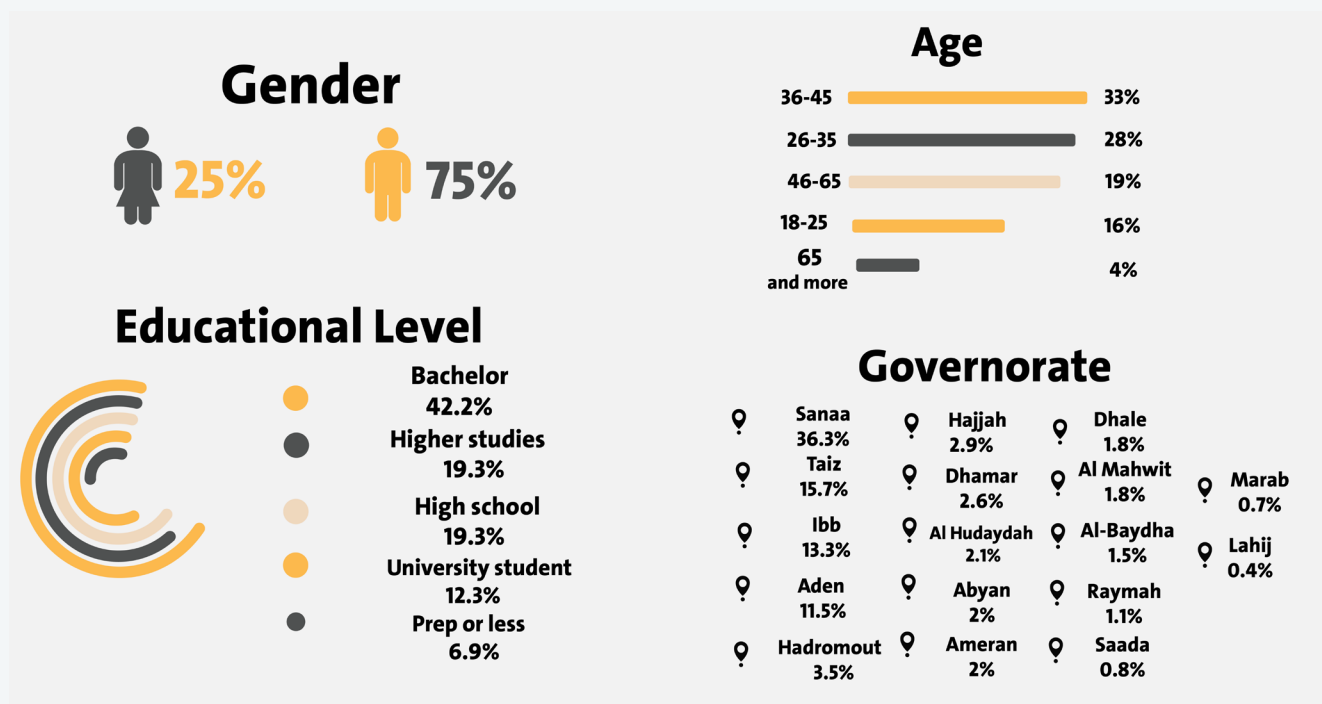
The judicial authority is the authority responsible through its institutions for achieving justice and settling disputes. It is independent in performing its functions and one of the three powers of the state (which are the executive, legislative, and judicial powers). The judiciary plays an essential role in maintaining order in society by adjudicating disputes and ensuring justice and equality. This makes women judicial participation an urgent necessity to achieve and ensure societal gender equality and modernize the law, and for women to contribute significantly to law enforcement in judicial institutions and to intensify efforts to combat corruption.

Before the outbreak of the conflict in Yemen, Yemeni women had been able to significantly participate in state institutions, especially in the legislative authority. There are female models in decision-making positions in parliaments, consultative (shura) councils, and cabinets. However, women's participation in the judicial institutions was very scarce, despite the efforts made by women themselves to ensure increased participation and gender equality guaranteed by Yemeni law in its constitutional provisions. These provisions constitute a legal basis for Yemeni women to exercise their political, social, and economic rights, and to enhance their participation in all state institutions. As a result, the Information and Opinion Survey Unit at "Yemen Information Center" conducted a survey showing the attitudes and beliefs of Yemeni society regarding women's participation in the judicial power in Yemen.

The survey was conducted on a research sample of 931 people. Most of the participants were males 75.6% compared to 24.4% of females of different age groups. 33.2% of them are 36-45 years old, 28.1% are 26-35 years old, 19.2% are 46-65 years old, 15.8% are 18-25 years old, and only 3.7% are 65 years old and over.

Regarding the participants' educational levels, most of them had a bachelor's degree 42.2%. Those with higher degrees and a high school certificate came next with percentage of 19.3% for both of them. Then, university students 12.3%, and those who had a preparatory certificate 6.9%.

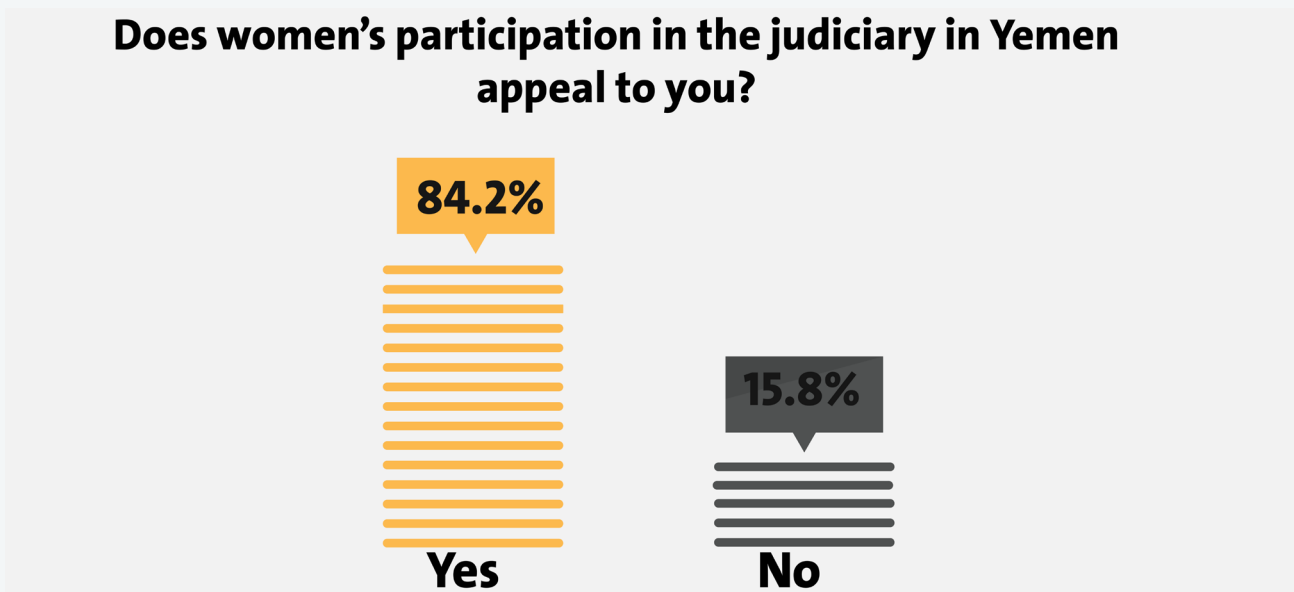
The survey covered a wide geographical area, including 17 Yemeni governorates out of 21 as follows: Sana'a 36.3%, Taiz 15.7%, Ibb 13.3%, Aden 11.5%, Hadhramout 3.5%, Hajjah 2.9%, Dhamar 2.6%, Al-Hodeidah 2.1%, Abyan 2%, Amran 2%, Al-Dhalea 1.8%, Al-Mahweet 1.8%, Al-Bayda 1.5%, Raymah 1.1%, Sa'adah 0.8%, Ma'rib 0.7%, and Lahj 0.4%.



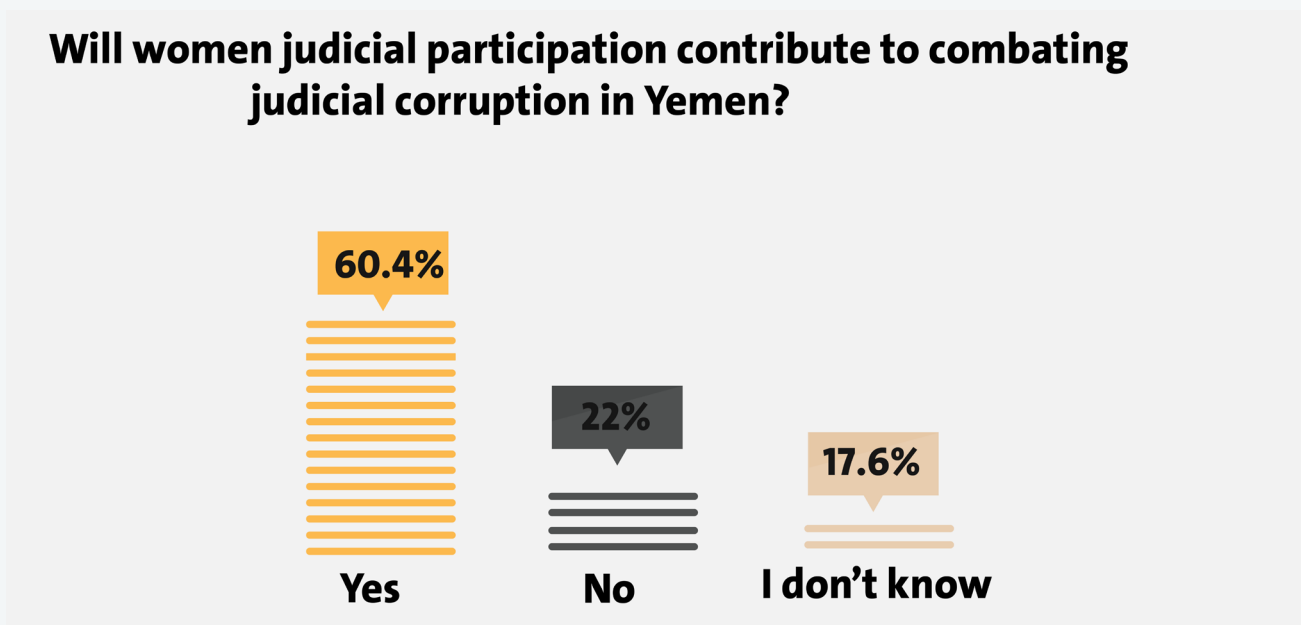
## Main Results

84.2% of the participants believe that women should participate in the judiciary in Yemen.

On the contrary, 15.8% believe the opposite, considering their participation unnecessary for many reasons. The reasons they provided include: the emotional nature of women in making decisions which makes them unfit for the judiciary, women's work in the judiciary is not permissible in Sharia, women are not qualified enough, customs and traditions, the nature of work in the judiciary, etc.



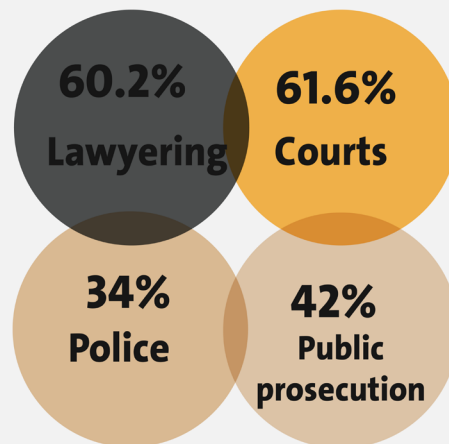
When asking the participants whether women participation in the judiciary would contribute to getting rid of judicial corruption in Yemen, 60.4% of them answered "yes" because they believe in the ability of women to reduce corruption. 22% answered "No", which means that they do not believe in their abilities. However, 17.6% said that they do not have any idea about the topic.



Regarding the judicial bodies which would be more suitable for women to work in, the participants answered as follows: (multiple-choice question)

- Courts 61.1%.
- Lawyering 60.2%.
- Public prosecution 42%.
- Police 34%.

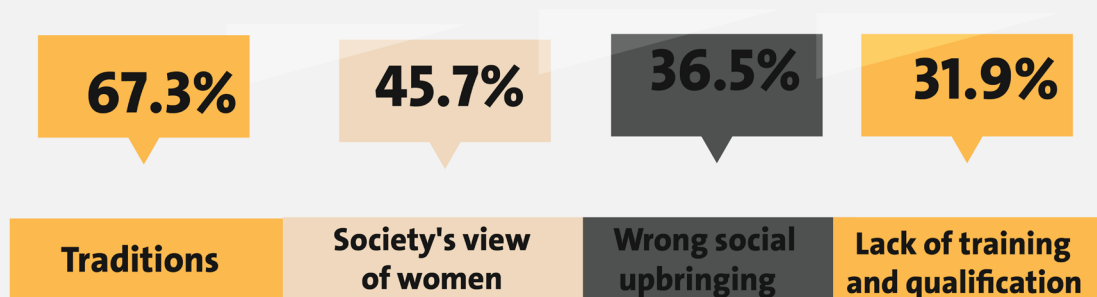
## In which of the following judicial bodies can women actively participate?(Multiple-choice question)



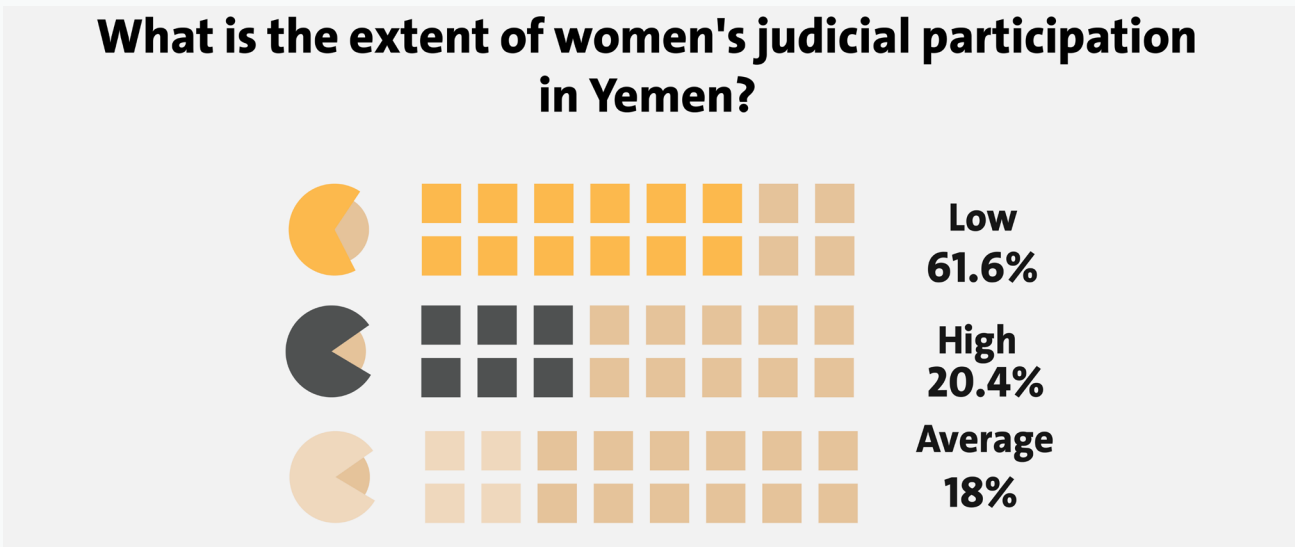
It is known that women work in state bodies faces many challenges and obstacles. According to the participants, the main challenges in the judiciary are as follows: (multiple-choice question)

- Customs and traditions 67.3%.
- Society's view of women 45.7%
- Wrong social upbringing 36.5%.
- Lack of training and qualification 31.9%.

## Why do you think women are not fit to work in the judiciary in Yemen? (Multiple-choice question)



However, 20.4% of the participants believe that women's participation in these bodies is high. 18.1% believe that it is average, while 61.6% believe that it is very low.



The participants believe that government bodies and community organizations can support and enhance women's participation in the judiciary by: (multiple-choice question)

- Raising awareness of women's role in these bodies 59.6%.
- Encouraging girls to enroll in law colleges 33.2%.
- Enacting legislation to support women's participation in the judiciary 29.7%.
- Establishing rehabilitation and training centers for women 23.5%.
- Providing equal opportunities for both males and females 20%.

