**Section one:**

* In Article (6) of the Jordanian Constitution, the principle of equality between all Jordanian citizens was guaranteed; it has been stated in the Constitution as follows: “Jordanians shall be equal before the law, concerning of their rights and duties, and regardless of their race, language or religion”. Many amendments have been done and adopted in the Constitution, thereof the amendments: ‘the assertion that the family is the base of society, which is formed by religion, morality and patriotism, and that the law does preserve its’ legal entity and reinforces its’ bonds, principles and values. The amendments has encompassed as well that the law does protect motherhood, childhood, and defends people with disabilities from any violations, abuse or exploitation. On the other hand, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was published in the Official Gazette on the 1st of August/2007 thus it became a part of the system of the National legislation system.
* With reference to the issuing of legal protection laws (which were published in order to protect women from violence), **have applied on**:
 - The Protection from Family Violence Law (No. 15 of 2017).
 - In addition to the amended law of the Penal Law (No. 27 of 2017).
* The efforts that were made by the National Centre for Human Rights and civil society institutions, as well as the local community leaders and clerics **consisted of**:
 - Providing awareness programs for women's right to equality and protecting them from violence for both sexes. **However**, more awareness programs are still needed (for both sexes), to the remote areas (areas which are deprived from services), schools, universities and to the victims of violence at the sheltered centres.
* The Cabinet approved on ‘January 20, 2013’ the National Strategy for Jordanian Women[[1]](#footnote-1) for the years 2013-2017. The strategy aims at:
 1- Enhancing the role of women in policy-making and decision-making in various axes and sectors, thus enabling them to participate publicly in building their family, society and the homeland.
2- Achieving sustainable development in a society of justice, equity and the equality in opportunities.
3- The strategy focused on empowering women in the political and economic forms, along with protecting them from violations and gender discrimination.
4- Seeking to achieve a minimum percentage of 30% of women's participation in the National and local councils as well as in various decision-making positions.
5- Finally, achieving the principle of constitutional equality regarding on offering equal opportunities for all Jordanians.
* Establishing the “Karama shelter[[2]](#footnote-2)” (related to the Ministry of Social Development) for the humans’ trafficking victims. Welcoming the beneficiaries is based on Article 7 of the Prevention of Human Trafficking Law (No. 9 of 2009) to provide all services (social, psychological, health, economic and housing) in the House of Reconciliation Family.
* A system for the women at risk shelter houses was issued with No.171 of 2016 to purposes of:
- Protecting the victims in shelters temporarily, until the danger is removed.
- The National Centre for Human Rights participates with the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Interior, the Judicial Council, the Public Security and civil society organizations prepare draft executive instructions for the women at risk shelters to provide social welfare, living, psychological, health, educational, cultural and legal services.
* NCHR has hosted the 11th International Conference of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions on the title of: "The Human Rights of Women and Girls; Promoting Gender Equality: The Role of National Human Rights Institutions", which was held in Amman from the 5-7th of November/2012. The Conference adopted Amman’s Declaration and Program of Action containing the regional action plans embraced by the regional working groups of the National human rights institutions, to be implemented as a procedural guide to their field work of protecting and promoting Women’s rights, girls and gender equality.
**The Plan of Action carries out specific tasks for National human rights institutions; pointing out in:**

1- Review and document the National legislation that discriminates women in rights.
2- Analyse and assess the policies observation, monitor and document the violations on women’s rights and work to eliminate them,
3- Oblige governments to implement their commitments concerning women’s rights on the National and International levels.
4- Activate the role of the National institutions through enhancing the coordination among all the International and the National partners, including partnership with civil society organisations; which initiated its’ preparatory meeting for the Conference on the 4th-5th of November in Amman ahead of the actual date of the main conference. The Conference published the **"Amman Statement"** on its’ website (in Arabic/English) and through various media channels.
5- An informative statement brochure was prepared and distributed to the National community by visiting 84 remote areas; where the violations of women’s rights have been monitored and documented. Thus, submitted a report to the Council of Ministers, which then was circulated to the ministries and the related parties.

* The National Centre for Human Rights prepared in 2016 the ‘Shadow report’; applied on the sixth National report Convention on Eliminating all Forms of Discrimination against Women; with the consultation of civil society organisations concerned with women's rights.
 -The report stressed on the efforts provided by the government and related parties exerted to protect and promote women's rights. However, women are still facing challenges, including the existence of some discriminatory legislation against women; the Penal Code, the Nationality Law, the Personal Status Law, Labor law and the civil service system, as well as women's unequal access to senior positions.
* An implementation was made via the collaboration between NCHR and CARE global organisation;
called **“Protection Project 1”;**1. Summarised on the protection of women and young girls (8-18 years old), from gender-based violence; aiming to raise awareness of the society members in order to protect them from violence in six governorates[[3]](#footnote-3).
2. An adoption of the draft law on children’s rights ensures the category protection from violence.

- Another **protection project** **(Protection 2)** was implemented by the NCHR, to protect women and girls from the gender-based violence, which aimed to:
- Promoting gender equity,
- Raising the capacity of service providers from relevant official agencies and civil society institutions; to eliminate gender-based violence.
**The project targeted** remote areas in the governorates of Mafraq and Zarqa through the implementation of six training workshops[[4]](#footnote-4). The project has also established six local coordinating committees in Zarqa and Mafraq governorates.

* NCHR has identified 11 laws that discriminate women; the centre stresses through its’ annual report on the human rights situation in Jordan, and ‘shadow report’ to the government report (the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against women), to amend the discriminatory legislation and its’ conformity with the constitution and the International standards.

**Section two:**
* Jordan's disapproving to ratify the Optional Protocol for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, despite of the NCHR recommendations in its’ previous reports and addressing it to the Prime Ministry on 14/11/2012.
* The continuation of neglecting the Article (9/2); regarding to granting women equal rights with men in relation to granting citizenship to their children, which is considered opposing to each of the first paragraph of article (6)[[5]](#footnote-5) from the Jordanian Constitution, and Article (9) of the Nationality Law and its amendments No. (6)[[6]](#footnote-6) of 1954,

**The word Jordanians in the Constitution and the Jordanian word in the electoral law include both male and female); which means that the children of the Jordanian mother, and the children of the Jordanian father, are both Jordanians and cannot be deprived of citizenship, (It is worth mentioning that the NCHR has recommended to focus on modifying Article (9/2) in its’ previous reports).**

* The Jordanian women's right to enjoy equal opportunities in the three branches of the government (Executive, Legislative and Judicial) is still low; such as the low participation rate of women, especially in the Council of Ministers compared with men which was (18%) in 2016, the percentage in the Senate which accounted on its’ highest to almost 16% in 2016, and finally, in the House of Representatives which reached to (16%) at its’ highest, as well as for other leadership positions.
* Despite of the presence of qualified women holding high degrees in the field of Sharia and law, no women were appointed to be part of the Constitutional Court, a judge in the religious judiciary and courts, as well as the General Fatwa Department; which have also been exempted from female employees.
* Women's participation in professional trade union councils has accounted very low percentages, especially in the boards of doctors 'union, advocates union, teachers' union, dentists union, union of engineers and other political parties.

**Therefore, NCHR believes that overcoming violence against women continues to face many challenges, remarking in**:

-The persistence of certain practices and traditions which is still considered as acceptable.
 - The existence of some discriminatory legislation against women.
- The work of the relevant institutions does not give a clear picture of the actual extent of the problem at the National level; **because:**

* 1. There is still no agreement on a specific concept and definition of the word “violence” between these institutions,
	2. The absence of a National monitoring system for violence cases in the country; which what makes it difficult to determine the proportion of violence against women in Jordan, (Each institution gives the percentages of violence against women in the light of what it has identified and received).
* Despite the adoption of the divine laws on the women right to inheritance, the confirmation of the Jordanian personal status law for 2010 and its amendments to these rights and granting women financial obligation independence, however, in some cases, traditions and the wrong social interpretations as well as the culture sometimes prevent women from enjoying their inheritance rights. Cases as:

- The heirs trials on appeasing women to waive their rights; giving them, “in return” less part of their real share of inheritance money. And if the woman opposed to her brothers and relatives requests, thus would immediately cut her off the family.
- Some parents give up their money or properties verbally to their sons (while being alive), or by endowment.

 **In most cases, women are the reason for depriving themselves of their right of inheritance such as:**

1. The fear of being cut off or abused from her brothers, or/and the rest of her heirs.
2. The fear of society judgments’ towards the woman who asks for her own inheritance.
3. The women’s ignorance of laws and procedures related to the division of inheritance.

 **The NCHR believes that:**a- Depriving women of their inheritance share may stir up hatred among family members, and lead to family disintegration.
b- The society might as well get excluded from the social solidarity; which is one of the most important principles of our religion.
c- Educate women in all ways about their rights towards inheritance as well as other as prescribed in Islamic law.

* NCHR prepares and lists on its’ annual report[[7]](#footnote-7) the human rights situation in Jordan; which has a section that tackles women’s rights.

**Section Three:**
* Civil society organisations implement awareness-raising programs that aim to:
a- Achieve gender equality and protect women from violence, by targeting all social segments (including both sexes). **However**, one of the challenges faced on accomplishing the work of those institutions in changing the culture of the society[[8]](#footnote-8), is that the work of the institutions is based on funding; therefore, programs will be implemented; if there was funding, if not, implementing those programs would diminish.
* In June 2014, the National Council for Family Affairs issued a Manual on the Standards of Accreditation and Quality[[9]](#footnote-9).

A guide[[10]](#footnote-10) was prepared in partnership with civil society organisations and the National Team for the Protection of the Family from Violence; which the NCHR is considered to be a member of that team.

The National Council has also issued a guide of the procedures used for dealing with the domestic violence cases; “Receiving the cases and takeover them’’[[11]](#footnote-11). This guide aims to standardise the work procedures of any institution or agency that is responsible in providing services which deals with cases of domestic violence.

At the same time, the Council issued a guide that illustrates the procedures taken when dealing with the cases of domestic violence staying in the shelters receptions and houses. (Using this guide requires all institutions to use the same standardised model; thus facilitate the way of working, exchanging the information between the institutions, and to achieve a common understanding that supports the handling of domestic violence cases, as well as unite them in an integrated services framework.

1. * **The National Strategy for Jordanian Women** was prepared by the Jordanian National Commission for Women in cooperation with all parties concerned with women's rights. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Al Karama Shelter house was opened on the 12th of Sep 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **The Six governorates**: Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Mafraq, Al-Karak and Ma’an. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **The six training workshops have concluded:**

 - The concept of gender-based violence.

 - Protecting women from violence according to International standards and local legislation.

- The concept of advocacy and leadership for 190 participants.

- Sessions on the economic women empowerment (by managing the economic projects). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. **Article (6) of the Jordanian Constitution**: “Jordanians shall be equal before the law, concerning of their rights and duties, and regardless of their race, language or religion”. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. **Article (9)** affirms that "Jordanian children are Jordanian wherever they may be”. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The annual report addresses the major challenges that remain in achieving gender equality in all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and makes recommendations for gender equality. The Centre also issues data on the demand for equality, as contained in the “shadow report” of the CEDAW convention, and perform many awareness programs and workshops that demands gender equality. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. The current culture of the society is summarised in accepting the violence and gender discrimination. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. The Manual on the Standards of Accreditation and Quality was submitted to cases of domestic violence. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. **The guide has many standards that should be followed and used to**:
- Ensure the quality of services and coordination between all service providers institutions, (specialised to help cases of domestic violence), integrate with them in the each stage of offering the service and verify any internal procedure of each institution.

-The standards helps the institutions to assess themselves, thus the indicators and standards, guide to identify any improvement opportunities that could be adopted to improve the provided services.

- Determine the organisations that need to have systems policies, qualified personnel, and infrastructure; to finally help them maximize the level of serving numbers of cases, as well as providing decision makers and service providers with a reliable database (to ensure if the needs of the cases are met and were benefited from the service provider). [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. **The guide contains:** templates of conversion, primary and initial data, violence detection and risk identification model, service approval form, social assessment forms, medical evaluation, psychological assessment, physical therapy evaluation, legal service model, case conference model, case closure, and a periodic report format. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)