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Nasser Yassin, Robert Hoppe (Eds.)

Women, Civil Society and Policy Change in the Arab World

- Studies civil society actors driving change to policies that affect women and their well being in Arab society
- Explores attempts to influence public policy through the lens of women movements activism and case studies in Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen
- Remedies significant gaps in the body knowledge about politics and policymaking in the Arab world

This book examines the ways in which Arab civil society actors have attempted to influence public policies. In particular, the book studies the drive towards a change of policies that affect women and their well-being. It does so through the lens of women civil society activism and through analysis of cases of policy reform in three Arab countries namely: Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen. The book addresses the tension between policy change and state repression; between Islamic traditional/religious values and civil/secular ones; between the formal and the informal channels for policy-making. One of the first books to reflect on the capability of Arab civil society actors to influence change, it traces recent policy evolution from before the Arab Uprisings in 2011 until the present day, and describes the limited ability of civil society actors to induce change and substantiate it over recent decades. The book explores the use of policy theories in the analysis of cases, and reflects on the possibility of applying and "adapting" those concepts, largely applied in the Western world, to encompass policymaking in the Arab world without conceptual 'overstretch'.

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