

FIELD STUDY

Economic, Social, Political and Psychological Implications on Jordanian Women Married to Non-Jordanians and their Families

**Arab Women Organization of Jordan
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FOREWORD

This study is a qualitative and analytical field survey aimed at exploring the human experiences of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanian men, based on focus group discussions and face-to-face interviews with women groups at a number of Governorates, using a research tool specifically designed for this purpose.

The study primarily aimed at providing decision-makers and politicians with realistic first-hand data from the field on the size and forms of suffering experienced by women and their families, to act as a research-informed tool for NGOs, experts and researchers in the field.

The study addresses in its theoretical 'Background' the notion of Nationality, the traditional perceptions of this notion, and the ensuing reflections and implications. The study also sheds light on the current Jordanian Nationality Law, its developments and repercussions on affected women and their children. A review of 'Previous Literature' was also tackled to serve the aims of the study.

The study therefore attempts to examine the social and economic effects on affected women especially those in lower socio-economic status, considering the grave consequences of their situation on education, health care, labour rights, and general economic status, based on analyzing responses of the study sample of women who participated in focus-group discussions and in filling the research Questionnaire at various Governorates of Jordan.

The study also attempts to provide needed information on: the nationality of husbands, age distribution of spouses, fields of work, marital status of women, socio-economic status of the family.

Consequently, it is hoped that, based on the responses of the study sample amounting to 191 women who were interviewed during the period 22/2/2010 - 29/5/2010 in each of the following Governorates: Mafraq, Madaba, Zarka, Amman, Salt, Irbed, and Jerash, the study will conclude with realistic and procedural suggestions and recommendations. The researcher was not able to reach cases in the Southern Governorates of Jordan namely - Karak, Ma'an, Tafileh, and Aqaba, in addition to Ajlun in the North. The parties contacted in the aforementioned regions justified this shortcoming by the scant cases existing in these Governorates. This justification coincides with earlier attempts of studying nationality issues faced by the same obstacle.⁽¹⁾

The current study forms an integral part of a the project implemented by the Arab Women Organization of Jordan entitled: Strengthening Capacities of Women's Organizations in Monitoring the CEDAW Convention, in cooperation with 'Equality Now' and the Human Forum for Women's Rights, with support from KARAMA - Jordan. It was preceded by a preliminary desk study entitled "Women and the Nationality Law: Equality Without Reservations", which provided detailed information on women and children affected by the current Nationality Law, highlighting discriminatory stipulations in that law, and analyzing the socio-political justifications for these stipulations on which Jordan's Government reservation to Article 9 of CEDAW regarding the 'right of woman to transfer her Nationality to her children' was based, and recommending 'lifting the reservation to article 9 of CEDAW', and stipulating the right of Jordanian women to transfer their nationality to their children.⁽²⁾

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c. Abstract of Study

The study generally aimed at identifying the size and forms of suffering experienced by Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians and their families. More specifically, the study aimed at analyzing the Jordanian Nationality Law and its economic, social, political and psychological consequences on the daily lives of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians and their children.

To achieve the study objectives, a research tool was designed comprising 33 paragraphs addressing the socio-economic and psychological state of the study sample composed of 191 women chosen in accordance with the 'stratified purposive method', distributed over 7 Governorates of the Kingdom of Jordan.

The Questionnaire addressed five themes: Primary Personal Data; Housing Environment; Sources of Income, Expenditure and Assets Ownership; Psychological Implications; Coping Strategies and Solutions.

In light of the Field Study results, based on descriptive analysis of study data derived from responses to the Questionnaire and focus-group discussions, study results indicated the following:

- **Primary data** on study sample showed that the highest percentage of study sample fell into the age-group 30-45 years amounting to 62.20%, pointing out to the problems of school attendance and university registration faced by the study sample. Results also indicated the low educational status of the study sample amounting to 75.46%, with 39.79% of the sample having lower than secondary level, and only 35.07% completing secondary level. Married women represented the highest percentage in terms of marital status amounting to 89%, with 10.71% heading their families. As for the nationality of husband: the highest percentage was married to Egyptian men amounting to 46.59%, followed by Syrians 14.4%, Palestinians 10.99%, and Iraqis 9.94%, reflecting the labour market constitution and the demographic nature of population in Jordan. The percentage of non-working wives amounted to 73.82%, and the total number of offspring for study sample was 606 males and females, with ages ranging between 2 months - 49 years.

The gravest finding revealed by the field survey was the 'presence of stateless children', offspring of stateless fathers, at the Mafraq Governorate, mostly bedouin nomads and sheep herders, a phenomenon which has to be dealt with urgently by the concerned authorities.

- As for the **Environment and Housing** the highest percentage of the study sample families lived in the city amounting to 67.59%, mostly residing in rented premises (64.92%). The permanent place of residence for 99.47 of the study sample families was in the mother's homeland – Jordan.
- In terms of '**Economic Status**' of the family, monthly salary of 45.02% of the study sample families fell below 150 JD, and 77.48% of the sample indicated the insufficiency of their monthly income for necessary needs. Resources of income varied between Wife's salary (16.23%), and Husband's salary (4.71%), and other sources from various low-income, irregular daily-basis jobs (42.40%). Indicating the economic hardships born by the families. 70.68% of the study sample indicated that the monthly expenditure was distributed between education, health care, food and clothing, work permit fees, residence permit fees. The highest rate of expenditure was given to daily expenditures on food and clothing, and the second to 'health care'.
- As for the '**Psychological Implications**', the study results revealed the high degree of feeling of belonging to the mother's homeland – Jordan – for 95.81% of the study sample's offspring, coinciding with the results of a number of previous studies in the field in terms of the child's inherent national ties being close to his mother's, the mother's womb being the first homeland for the child. As for the degree of experiencing the various negative feelings by children it was revealed that 43.45% have very low levels of non-belongingness, and 42.87% have low feelings of estrangement. On the other hand, feelings of deprivation held the highest percentage amounting to 46.50% inclusive of deprivation from educational opportunities, health care, suitable housing, ability to travel and services rendered to Jordanian citizens.

Concerning '**Fears**' felt by study sample: 61.76% expressed fears of having to seek refuge at their families' after their marriage; 62.76% expressed fears of the husband's sudden departure from the country; 72.2% expressed fears of the kidnapping of their children; 93.7% expressed their feeling of guilt concerning their children's uncertain future, caused by their marriage to a non-Jordanian. On the other hand 65.96% of the sample expressed their belief that depriving their children from the Jordanian nationality is a form of discrimination and violence against women and children. This deprivation in itself contravenes with the stipulations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), both of which have been ratified by Jordan. Also, 83.24% of the study sample revealed they have not expected any of the later problems faced after marriage, which points to the necessity of awareness-raising in this regard.

- As for '**Coping Strategies**' used by the study sample, 45.54% reverted to solutions to ease the suffering of their children. Such as: seeking 'Wasta' i.e. 'favouritism' to obtain nationality for their children; seeking help from Government authorities, voluntary organizations, presenting 'petitions' to the Royal Court; seeking exemptions from residence and work permits.
- On the '**Possibility of securing the necessary Identification documents for their children**', over 40% of the study sample expressed their lack of hope to obtain any of the required documents such as: family book, identity card, passport, residence permit, work permit, travel permit, travel visa, driving license, opening bank account, and university registration.

The study concluded with the following Suggestions and Recommendations:

- The **General Recommendation** of 'Amendment of the Nationality Law in view of Preserving the Jordanian Women's Constitutional Right of transferring their Nationality to their husbands and children'.
- Urgent **Procedural Recommendations** as follows: Issuance of Residence Permits valid for five years for husbands and children of Jordanian women; Issuance of a National Number for Children of Jordanian women to protect their educational, health and labour opportunities on equal basis with other Jordanians; Forming a permanent special high committee to study urgent and humanitarian cases; Protecting the children from the situation of 'statelessness'.
- The **Administrative Recommendation** of: 'Calling upon all relevant institutions for the 'Issuance of all Marriage Contracts stating Nationality of Husband', in view of facilitating research and the process of 'decision-making'.

Economic, Social, Political and Psychological Implications on Jordanian Women Married to Non-Jordanians and their Families

1. INTRODUCTION

Nationality is one the major elements of the ‘Legal Personality’ that every individual is entitled to enjoy. Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates: “Everyone has the right to a nationality; No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality, nor denied the right to change his nationality”. To stress the utmost importance of the Right to Nationality, this right had been addressed by more than one International Convention, most of which have been ratified by the Kingdom of Jordan. The Jordanian Constitution has also affirmed the right to nationality in its Article 5, the first article to address the rights and responsibilities of Jordanian individuals, expressing the belief that this right forms the essence of individual Human Rights. In application of the aforesaid constitutional stipulation, the Jordanian Nationality Law number 6 of 1954 had been decreed, specifying the conditions for attainment of ‘principal’ original nationality, ‘auxiliary’ nationality, or acquiring of nationality, and other related matters. However, the right to nationality continues to face numerous influences considered as ‘violations’ of this right , among these are; the continued counter application of its stipulation by official authorities in the form the discriminatory application of the law concerning the ability of women in transferring their own Jordanian Nationality to their children as per Article 3/3 , despite the fact that article 9 of the same law also affirms that “Children of a Jordanian citizen are considered Jordanians wherever they are born”, bearing in mind that grammatically, the ‘male’ gender in Arabic applies equally to males and females alike.⁽³⁾

Additionally the official authorities restrict the right of conferring Jordanian nationality upon spouses of Jordanian men and women, though the law allows that. Statistical records of the Ministry of Interior reveals that the number of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanian amounted to 65956 by the end of 2009.⁽⁴⁾

The National Centre for Human Rights, in its Annual Report 2009 has expressed the opinion that the Jordanian Nationality Law is in need of review and amendment in view of the fact that more than five decades have passed since it was decreed, and due to the need for its compatibility with the international norms concerned, a number of which have been acceded by Jordan. In addition, there is a need to comply with the changes and developments which has affected the Jordanian society. The National Centre of Human Rights is continually receiving complaints from citizens whose personal documents, National Numbers and Passports were being withheld, the numbers of which has reached during the past three years – 2007, 2008, and 2009 in consecutive order: 30, 64, and 38 complaints. The National Centre has also affirmed that these actions are considered clear violations of the constitutional stipulations, and in prejudice to the international norms of human rights, which might lead to the spreading of the condition of ‘statelessness’ in the Jordanian society. A grave phenomenon that ought to be attended to and considered in due time, for its negative effects on the individuals concerned, and for its clear breach of their human rights, restricting their freedom of movement in the country, exposing them to questioning and possible detainment, in addition to depriving them from work opportunities and means of daily living, as they are unable to apply for employment without holding any official identification documents. This situation complicates daily life matters for those affected and obstructs their human rights to housing, ownership, health care, education, obtaining of driving license, and other rights.⁽⁵⁾

2. ISSUE OF NATIONALITY: GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Higher Political Leadership in Jordan continuously urges for the compliance of national legislation with the spirit of the times, and with the international standards of Human Rights. The Royal Addresses of His Majesty the King addressing the consecutive Prime Ministers of new Governments have always urged them to eliminate all kinds of discrimination against women, through amendment of discriminatory laws which obstruct equality and justice in society. It is therefore evident in this regard that the current Nationality Law which had been issued since over 50 years requires review and amendment of some of its articles, especially regarding equality between men and women in conferring their nationality upon their own offspring.

In June 2004, the Official Spokeswoman for the Government affirmed that the Jordanian Government was considering three conceptions for amending the Nationality Law for allowing Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians to grant citizenship to their children:⁽⁶⁾

- (1) Granting the right to Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians to grant citizenship to their children, except for Jordanian women married to Palestinians , in line with the amendment introduced by Egypt at the time.
- (2) Entitling Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians to grant citizenship to their children, except for nationalities to which the Council of Ministers decides otherwise.
- (3) Stipulating that the children of Jordanian men are Jordanian wherever they have been born, and the children of Jordanian women are Jordanian wherever they have been born.

However, the official position have since then changed, reverting by the end of 2008 to considering the issue of Nationality a highly sensitive one due to the fact that a large number of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians were actually married to Palestinian men. And that this change of position reflects the government's stand rejecting the evacuation of the Palestinian land, and is in congruence with the Government's stand against the notion of the 'Alternative Homeland'.

Yet, at the same time, the Government declared that the Council of Ministers will look into specific situations from a human rights perspective considering each case individually. Dealing with these cases will not be based on the Nationality Law, but on the powers granted to the Council of Ministers by law.⁽⁷⁾

In the same direction, a previous study conducted in 1996, addressing the "Affirmative Policy Measures and Initiatives to Promote the Implementation of CEDAW in Jordan", cited the following remark of an official source of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the Nationality issue: "...Jordan's reservation to article 9 Paragraph 2 of CEDAW was not based on any discriminatory practice against women. It has purely political recriminations closely related to the situation in the Middle East".⁽⁸⁾

Adding that "unless a comprehensive solution and an overall settlement to the Middle East standing 'status quo' problems is reached, this reservation cannot be removed ". In elaboration, the same Foreign Ministry source explained that 'if women were allowed to pass their nationality onto their children, Jordan will have to accept thousands of newly acquired citizens from Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Gaza (holders of Palestinian travel document – Laissez – Passez from those countries)". Jordan at the moment, the official source continued, was not ready neither economically nor administratively to cope with this situation. Hence, lifting the Jordan's reservation to Article 9 of CEDAW is closely tied to the solution of the Middle East problem and the Peace Accords.⁽⁹⁾

Similarly, in 2003, a previous Minister of Interior has re-affirmed the political roots underlying the nationality issue dealt with in the aforesaid study, announcing openly that '...the Government had no intention of granting citizenship to children of Jordanian Women married Palestinian men until a settlement of the Palestinian conflict is reached'.

Also, the Third and Fourth combined 'Periodical Reports' presented by Jordan Government to the CEDAW committee on 10th. March 2006 stated that the Government fears the recriminations of granting the nationality rights on the 'Right to Return' of the Palestinians to their homeland, added to that the possible economic repercussions upon the health care and housing services rendered which will have its toll on the infrastructure in the Kingdom.

However, the researcher clarifies that both of the above statements were not based on objective studies indicating the actual figures of Jordanian women affected by the situation of the problem at hand.

In the course of reviewing 'Past Efforts of Governmental and Non-Governmental Parties' towards amending the Nationality Law, we present in Annex (1) a summarized timeline of these efforts.

2.1 Identification of the Term

Nationality is looked upon as a legal political connection that binds individuals with the state, involving certain obligations that should be honoured by both the individual and the state. Nationality is a legal trait ascribed to a certain member of a state thus making him/her known as one of its citizens and making it his/her point of reference. Certain rights and obligations ensue as a result of this legal political relationship that ought to be respected by both parties.

The right to Nationality is the basis for enjoyment of all citizenship rights in the country, entitling the individual of enjoying all rights such as: right to residence, right to hold public office, right to participate in the political life as a voter or a candidate in the general elections and general referendum.

The right of attaining a Nationality also means enjoyment of all other non-political citizenship rights such as: the right for health care, work, free education, social security – all essential for living within the frontiers of a country. The state has the obligation of protecting its citizens, defending their rights, and preserving their privileges, conferring upon them the necessary diplomatic protection when residing outside its borders. On the other hand, the individual citizen is obligated to abide by the state's orders, be loyal to the state and respect its laws.

The state is the only 'legal persona' entitled to confer Nationality. A right not allowed for any other international legal entity. The state thus possesses the arbitrary right to decree its own laws to regulate Nationality rights, no other nation has the right to interfere in such practice. This is a right being promulgated in paragraph 7 of Article 2 of the United Nations Charter.

The International Court of Justice has also issued its 'fourth ruling' on 7 February 1923 in which it reaffirmed the principal right of each country to freedom of legislature regarding nationality issues. The Hague Conference held on 12 April 1930, has also affirmed in Article (1) of its Document the need to recognize this right by all other states, on condition that it does not contravene with other relevant conventions or international norms.

Despite that, the freedom of states in regulating their own nationality stipulations is not completely arbitrary, for the issue of Nationality, though a means for identifying citizens subjects of a state, yet it is still an issue of concern for International Law.

There are international principles recognized by the global community that have to be abided to by all nations such as not submitting the offspring of the 'diplomatic corps' to the rule of acquiring a nationality by 'right of land', therefore children of diplomats serving in foreign countries don't acquire the nationality of this country, even though they have been born in that country. This case arises for countries that confer their nationality upon children born within their land, regardless of the nationality of their own parents.⁽¹⁰⁾

As for the Jordanian Nationality Law, means of acquiring Jordanian citizenship have been explicitly specified in the law, first of which is through 'Blood Bond', stipulating the right of the individual to acquiring the nationality of his parents and grandparents by virtue of birth and lineage – primarily derived from the father's lineage. Thus claiming that lineage blood flows in the males' veins but not in the females', keeping the mother's role in lineage only in 'Reserve Status' such as in the case of the illegitimate child whose lineage to a father was not proven, who automatically acquires his Jordanian mother's nationality, while the father's lineage rights remain 'authentic'. Notwithstanding the stipulation of Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) on each individual's 'right to nationality' and that 'no one shall be deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality'.⁽¹¹⁾

Nationality rights were also stipulated in other international conventions such as: the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, 1957; the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 1959; the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954. Those conventions have all stressed the state obligation in regard of regulating acquiring, losing or regaining a nationality.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979 has stipulated in its article 9, granting equal rights for women to acquire, change, or retain their nationality; in addition to granting women equal rights with respect to the Nationality of their children.

Jordan has ratified the CEDAW on 1 July 1992, and the convention was published in the Official Gazette on 2 August 2007, thus making it a legally binding instrument in Jordanian legislature.

Regarding the Child's Right to a Nationality

The International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights, 1966, affirmed the right of the child to a Nationality in its Article 24 which stipulated: "Every child has the right to a nationality".

Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, stipulates: "the child ought to be registered immediately after birth, and has the right since birth to a name and to acquiring a nationality, and when possible the right to know his parents and enjoy their care".

Article 2 of the Child Convention stipulates that: States parties will respect the right of the child in preserving its identity including its nationality, name and family ties in a way that is congruent with the law without any unlawful interference. If a child was unlawfully, partly or completely, deprived of its own nationality, the State has the obligation to bestow on it the suitable assistance and protection that will expedite re-instating its identity.

As for the Right of the Illegitimate Child to a Nationality

The Jordanian Nationality Law No. 6 of 1954 has addressed the specific case of the child born to unknown parents, stipulating for humanitarian considerations, in Article 3, paragraph 5:

'Anyone born in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to unknown parents, in so far as failing evidence to the contrary, is deemed to have been born there'.

Article 3, paragraph 4 of the Nationality law has also stipulated:

'Anyone born in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to a mother holding the Jordanian nationality and a father of unknown or no nationality, or whose paternity has not been legally established , is to be considered of Jordanian nationality'.

The League of Arab States has adopted this humanitarian consideration in an Arab Convention in 1954 stipulating in its Article 5: 'A foundling discovered in a country is deemed to have been born there unless evidence to the contrary is established '.

The above considerations are all in agreement with the mainstream of international conventions, dictated by the necessities of the social order, in view of evading the situation of 'statelessness' among children.

However, in the case of the child born to a Jordanian mother and a non-Jordanian father

The Jordanian Nationality Law has deprived those children from the right to acquire Jordanian nationality, a situation resulting in grave humanitarian recriminations, especially in view of the fact that in most cases the Jordanian mother resides with her own Arab or foreign husband and children on the Jordanian territories. Non recognition of the right of these children to a Jordanian nationality is considered a breach of 'an inherent human right', and a clear discrimination between fathers' and mothers' rights, resulting in a stressful life situation to the families of Jordanian women, facing difficulties in residence, education, health care, and all daily life situations caused by this deprivation.

It is also the right of the child to acquire the nationality of a mother in whose womb he had been nurtured as his first home, acquiring her own loyalties and belonging to her own nation.

A number of countries have respected the equal rights of men and women in conferring their nationalities upon their own offspring, whereby the child acquires the nationalities of his own father as well as his mother, such countries are: Turkey, Germany, Italy, France, Spain, China, and others. Tunisian legislators have also followed the same path, amending the Tunisian Nationality Law in 1963 to stipulate in its article 6 paragraph 3 that 'a child born to a Tunisian mother and a non-Tunisian father is to be considered of Tunisian nationality'.⁽¹²⁾

On the Legitimacy of Acquiring the Mother's Nationality

A comparative study conducted by Dr. Fouad Abdul Mun' em Riyad, addressing the issue of Nationality as a Human Right concluded the following:⁽¹³⁾

".... the limitations in the Arab nationality laws, which consider 'paternity' as the sole basis for conferring nationality upon the new-born child, thus placing the mother's rank at a lower status than that of the father's, will certainly deprive a vast section of society from their right to citizenship of the nation with whom they have established inherent ties, through their mother's womb, considered as the child's first homeland. The Mother being the first person taking the charge of raising the child, in his first formative years, when his emotional growth is achieved including his feelings of belongingness, as affirmed by the psychologists. It is not feasible to confer nationality upon the child only in the case of 'unknown' father, or 'statelessness', the fact of the child spiritual belonging to his mother's national community and homeland had been long established, giving him the right to acquire her nationality even when his father is a non-national. Most of the modern legal systems including those of the progressed industrial countries or developing countries have been alerted to this nationality issue and started to consider the mother's nationality as a reason for conferring citizenship upon the child on equal bases to the right of the father's. This had been stipulated in each of the Nationality Laws of France 1973; Italy 1983; Spain 1983; Germany 1979; Belgium 1984; China 1980; Turkey 1981; and Mexico 1969.

All the above laws also called for equal rights of mother and father in conferring nationality upon their children, in conformity with the constitutional courts ruling in these countries whereby non abiding by this ruling is considered a violation of a major principle of human rights – that of non-discrimination based on Gender, a principle decreed in many constitutions, among them some Arab Constitutions, prohibiting the deprivation of women of transferring her nationality to her child while allowing the father this right (Higher Constitutional Court Ruling in Federal Germany on 21 May 1974, and Higher Constitutional Court Ruling in Italy on 9 February 1983).

2.2 Observations on the Jordanian Nationality Law

Considered from a 'gender perspective', one can make the following observations about the discriminatory aspects of the Jordanian Nationality Law:⁽¹⁴⁾

Article (3) of the Jordanian Nationality Law states that the following shall be deemed to be Jordanian nationals;

Article (3): Any person whose father holds Jordanian nationality;

Nationality is hence linked to the father of the child, with no consideration to the mother's nationality. Therefore, Jordanian women who are married to non-Jordanians do not have the right to bestow their nationality onto their children nor husbands. Furthermore, Article 22 of the Law of Residency and Foreigners' Affairs (No. 24 of 1973, amended in 1991) gives a preferential treatment for the foreign wives of Jordanian men by allowing them to obtain 5-year residency permits and at the same time does not facilitate residency for foreign men married to Jordanian women nor their children.

Paragraphs (4) and (5) of the same article consider the following as Jordanian nationals:

Paragraph (4): Any person born in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of a mother holding Jordanian nationality and of a father of unknown nationality or of a Stateless father or whose lineage is not established;

Paragraph (5): Any person born in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of unknown parents, as a foundling in the Kingdom shall be considered born in the Kingdom pending evidence to the contrary;

This law states as a condition that the birth should take place within the Kingdom of Jordan, which leaves the children of a Jordanian woman to which the same conditions in paragraph (4) apply but who were born outside of the

country, stateless. In addition, paragraph (5) gives preference to a foundling child over a legitimate child of a Jordanian mother.

With regards to **Article 8** of the Nationality Law that deals with the nationality of dependents, we shall examine the following paragraphs:

Paragraph (2): A Jordanian woman who marries a non-Jordanian and who acquires the nationality of her husband may retain her Jordanian nationality unless she renounces it in accordance with the provisions of this Law, in which case she may subsequently recover her Jordanian nationality by making an application therefore if her marriage is dissolved for any reason.

Paragraph (3): A Jordanian woman whose husband was or is being naturalized to acquire the nationality of another country because of special circumstances may retain her Jordanian nationality.

These two paragraphs guarantee the right of a Jordanian woman married to a non-Jordanian, or whose husband obtains a foreign nationality, to maintain her nationality. However, according to paragraph (2) if she renounces her Jordanian nationality due to obtaining her foreign husband's nationality, she has the right to recover her original nationality "if her marriage is dissolved for any reason." In legal terms, a marriage is dissolved by divorce, which leaves such cases where divorce is not possible unconsidered. Separated, abandoned, or women who simply wish to regain their nationality for any reason are not protected by this law.

The case of minor children of a Jordanian woman after the death of her non-Jordanian husband is completely ignored by the provisions of this law. The Jordanian woman in this case becomes the head of her family, but according to The Jordanian Personal Status Law (No. 9 for 2001), although she can issue a family civil status book in her name, her children cannot be added to her Family Book due to her husband's foreign nationality.

Article 9 of the law presents a paradoxical situation as it states that "The children of a Jordanian man shall be Jordanian wherever they are born." Hence generation after generation, this law guarantees the right of the children of a Jordanian man to their Jordanian nationality even if they were born, living abroad, and therefore have very little emotional, cultural, or physical links to this nationality. The children of a Jordanian mother could be born in Jordan and live all their lives in the country and never have the right to obtain their mother's nationality because their father is/was a foreigner, and therefore they shall always be deemed as foreigners as well. There is an imbedded assumption in this article that gives the father a more important role in transferring the language, culture, and spiritual connection to a certain nationality, which contradicts with the reality of the Jordanian society, in which mothers are predominantly responsible for the upbringing of children.

To Summarize

The preceding observations about differential treatment between the father and the mother as relating to their children's nationality present a blatant disregard for human rights in general and for Article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in particular.⁽¹⁵⁾

Several amendments were made to the Jordanian Personal Status Law, the latest of which was in 2001. According to the amended law a Jordanian woman divorced, widowed or married to a foreigner can obtain her independent family civil status book as head of household (in the case of the death of the husband) and with an indication of her husband's nationality (in the case of being married to a non-Jordanian).

However, the status of her children in the event of their foreign father's death was completely ignored by the law, though the wife legally becomes head of family and is entitled of a Family Book in her own name; but in line with the Personal Status Law No. 9 of 2001, she will not be allowed to add her children from the deceased non-Jordanian husband in her family book.

In the case of having a foreign father, the Jordanian mother cannot include her children in her family civil status book. This presents many difficulties because the "family book" is required to conduct nearly all official transactions,

including registering children for school or university, obtaining civil service jobs or gaining access to social services such as food assistance.

In Jordan's recent Fifth Periodic Report presented to the CEDAW committee on the implementation of the convention for the years 2005-2009, some positive official procedures were reported to ameliorate the suffering of the Jordanian mothers of non-Jordanian children, such procedures included:

Stipulating in the Temporary Passport Law for the year 2003 the authorization of the Minister of Interior, in humanitarian cases, for issuance of a Jordanian passport for the period of 5 years subject to renewal to the children of a Jordanian mother, pending approval of the Prime Minister. Also dealing with requests for obtaining Jordanian nationality for these children in a manner similar to other requests for nationality as per stipulations of the law. Exempting children and husbands of Jordanian women from recurrent 'residence fines' was also stipulated. Additionally, all Jordanian school children were exempted from school fees for the scholastic year 2009-2010, and the previous year, encompassing children of Jordanian women from non-Jordanian fathers. The Ministry of Interior also approved giving annual residence permits as a special procedure in favour of children whose condition demands their presence with their mother.⁽¹⁶⁾

However, the report did not verify whether these positive amendments have been applied in reality.

The Fifth Periodic Report also mentioned that the newly established 'Complaints Desk' at the Jordanian National Commission for Women is currently working on preparation of Forms especially targeting Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians to monitor their situation, following up on the difficulties faced by them and rendering assistance when possible'.

The Nationality Law, however, with its aforementioned gender discriminatory observations, remains unchanged despite the publication of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in the Official Gazette in 2007, which in theory should make it binding in national legislation.⁽¹⁷⁾

2.3 Review of Previous Studies: Economic, Social, Political and Psychological Implications on the Families of Jordanian Women Married to Non-Jordanians

To shed more light on the daily life problems faced by Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians and their families, we present below summaries of previous studies on the subject.

2.3.1 On the National Level

An earlier study conducted by Queen Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development (ZENID) in cooperation with the Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW), entitled: "The Right of Arab Women to Give their Nationality – the Case of Jordan", 2003. This study aimed primarily at identifying the negative reflections of the discriminatory Jordanian Nationality Law on the socio-economic status of the families of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians, in which semi-structured interviews with 10 Jordanian women residing in Jordan were used.⁽¹⁸⁾

The study results revealed the following:

Generally, it was found that the families with higher socio-economic status did not suffer from the implications of not obtaining the Jordanian citizenship in the same degree as those families in the lower socio-economic status. The latter are reminded daily that their economic rights are closely tied to their lack of nationality rights. For the poorer families obtaining the Jordanian nationality was a means for survival. The Jordanian women in the study sample revealed that they had not perceived the kind and extent of problems they themselves and their families faced after marriage, starting with the arrival of their first child. This clearly points out to the general ignorance on part of the women of the national civil laws and their applications.

The main problems and obstacles named were deprivation of education and work opportunities, economic rights and low feeling of identity. Enrolment in Government schools needed fees, acceptance in universities was denied, residence and work permits were subject to annual renewal entailing long and complicated legal procedures, forming a financial burden on the lower-income families, in addition to the need for passport renewal every two years.

A number of women have expressed their feelings of “shock and insult” on discovering the limits to their rights as Jordanian citizens, together with the ‘feeling of guilt’ for exposing their offspring to these dangerous circumstances and instability.

The women also revealed their belief that the ability to confer their Jordanian children upon their children was within their constitutional rights, thus requesting immediate amendment to the Nationality Law. Others have suggested the issuance of a National Number for their children to facilitate their lives regardless of giving them the Jordanian citizenship.

2.3.2 On the Arab Regional Level

A regional study addressing the Nationality issue entitled “Denial of Nationality: the Case of Arab Women”, 2004 conducted by the Centre for Research and Training on Development (CRTD), Lebanon revealed that despite the fact that 19 Arab countries among the 22 members of the League of Arab States have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Article 9 of which stipulates that ‘countries shall grant women equal rights with men, with respect to the nationality of their children’.⁽¹⁹⁾

However, in every country throughout the MENA region women are not granted full citizenship rights and are thus treated by state and society as ‘second-class’ citizens.⁽²⁰⁾

Hence the decision was taken to undertake an analytical regional research study, considering the extent of the psychological impact of the current Arab nationality laws on the socio-economic status of Arab women married to non-nationals. The study encompassed 8 Arab countries: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Yemen, Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt.

Results of the study revealed that most of the study sample were married to men from other Arab countries, and of the same religion, with the exception of respondents from Morocco who were mostly married to European men. The study has also revealed that most of these women have not predicted the challenges of marrying a non-national of their country, and have only realized the ensuing problem after the arrival of their first child, or following a divorce or the death of spouse.

One Jordanian respondent to the regional study admitted having been aware of the nature of challenges expected, but went on with her decision to marry a non-national in the hope of an imminent change of the law as was rumored. Other women pointed to the escalation of familial problems when diplomatic relations were severed or non-existing between the spouses’ countries.

Regional study results also revealed that women married to foreign non-nationals were not confronted with the same problems as compared to those married to Arab nationals, since the children of foreign husbands are easily registered in their fathers’ countries of origin and the governments of those countries protected their rights.⁽²¹⁾

In comparison, the Jordanian study has shown that Jordanian women married to non-Arab men – British, American or other – have taken a conscious decision of marrying a foreign husband based on their high educational level and independent social upbringing, which also helped them through the cultural, and social challenges faced. These women also represented the higher socio-economic status of the study sample of the Jordanian study.⁽²²⁾

However a number of Arab women in the regional study expressed the feeling of being illegal citizens and outlaws in their own countries.⁽²³⁾

One Jordanian woman among the Arab sample said: 'I am not treated as a human being when I go through official procedures at the Ministry of Interior'.

Another Jordanian woman said that 'my children were always under the threat of being expelled from schools for not obtaining the necessary documents'.

A Jordanian widow of an Indian husband spoke of her plight during efforts to get her deceased husband's compensations and remuneration, due to his illegal residence in the country and in view of her financial inability to assign a lawyer to follow up her case in court.⁽²⁴⁾

One Jordanian woman expressed her great anger over the fact that 'a Jordanian man can marry any woman of another nationality without bearing the negative economic or social consequences, which I cannot do'.

A young Jordanian man born and raised in Jordan who has an Egyptian father expressed his feelings: 'I grew with my brother both wishing that we were Jordanians, as we could not adjust to the Egyptian way of life'.

These revelations of the 'regional study' 2004, greatly coincide with the results of the Jordanian study conducted by ZENID, 2003, with regards to daily life problems resulting from the discriminatory application of the Nationality Law, hovering around deprivation of the right to education, health care, social security, work in the public sector, right in husband's retirement dues, right to ownership, right to obtaining an ID, or a National Number – all of which are pre-requirements for obtaining a marriage certificate or a university certificate.

The regional study has also revealed that the right to inheritance between foreigners is forbidden in the cases of Lebanon, Jordan and Morocco (in which case a Jordanian wife cannot inherit her non-Jordanian husband).⁽²⁵⁾

Also similarities were found among Arab women regarding the 'feelings of guilt' for destroying their children's future; 'feelings of shame' and even 'wishing for death' in request for comfort.⁽²⁶⁾

Regarding seeking solutions to ameliorate the suffering, many women indicated that they have resorted to a number of coping means such as: presenting petitions to the Royal Court (in the cases of Jordan and Morocco), reverting to personal contacts, forging of official documents, requesting assistance from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

The Regional study concluded with 'calling upon Arab countries to implement the stipulations of the CEDAW convention and the convention on the Rights of the Child, specifically with regards to article 9 of CEDAW on nationality to facilitate transferring nationality to children.'

2.3.3 On the International Level

A Comparative European Survey was conducted by the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, of the Parliamentary Assembly – Council of Europe. The in-depth comparative study targeting the 'legislations on nationality' in the Counsel of Europe member and observer states, which was entitled "**Nationality Rights and Equal Opportunities**", encompassing 35 countries, aimed at uncovering any distinctions being made on grounds of Gender, whether intended or unintended; and highlighting best practices in this regard in view of making concrete proposals to remedy any shortcomings.

Results of this study have revealed that member states adhered to varied principles regarding nationality rights, and that their position on double/multiple nationality was also varied. However, most countries surveyed respected nationality rights and the equality of the sexes, and seemed to make no distinctions on grounds of gender.

Surprisingly, men seemed to have been discriminated against in the past when it came to passing down nationality to illegitimate children, especially those who were born abroad. This distinction is currently about to be revised.

The survey study also revealed that the Vatican State (the Holy See) represents a special case, as it applies the 'ius officie' that is: on the grounds of office held whereby the Vatican citizenship is granted on temporary basis for a function or by concession, and for a limited objective and time, as per dispositions of the Lateran Treaty and Law No. III of 7 June 1929. This had been attributed to the limited area of the Vatican State and the limited number of the Vatican citizens.

The Council of Europe study concluded with 'calling upon European Governments and Parliaments to eliminate all that might lead to discrimination in nationality legislation on grounds of Gender'.⁽²⁷⁾

2.4 Statistical Size of the Problem

In general, statistical data regarding the issue of Nationality, both on the national and regional levels, is quite hard to find. The Regional study of 2004 encompassing eight Arab countries have indicated the difficulties encountered in obtaining statistical information on the subject. Such information would have been extracted from various indirect sources such as: residence permits, school enrolment, marriage and divorce registries, etc. Statistical information for the regional study could be available only in Lebanon and Morocco, though on a limited scale.⁽²⁸⁾

On the other hand, the Jordanian study on 'Gender and Citizenship', referred to in the previous chapter, conducted by Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development (ZENID) in 2003, have also faced many limitations in gathering relevant statistical data about the number of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians, since only the total number of marriages for women and men was listed without specifying the nationality of the spouse in each case.

In the above study, five governmental institutions were approached to collect data regarding the number of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanian. These were: the Civil Status and Passports Department, the Ministry of Interior, Department of Statistics, Higher Church Council, and the Supreme Judge Department. All but one – the Supreme Judge Department – were not able to provide any data classified by the nationality of the wife or husband. The latter Department having started to include an item on 'nationality of husband' into marriage contracts in 1998.⁽²⁹⁾

The 2003 Jordanian study assumed that this was an indication that the government did not have an accurate idea of the size of the problem, or that it was unaware of the existence of the many problems created by the current discriminatory Nationality law.

The ZENID study was therefore able to estimate the percentage of marriages between Jordanian women and non-Jordanian men for the years 1996-2000 to be about 4%, yet it was not possible to identify the nationality of husbands.⁽³⁰⁾

Fortunately, for the purposes of the ZENID study, it was possible to get a clearer picture of the size of the problem through the data collected by the Department of Statistics in the last General Population and Housing Census conducted in 2004, which took into consideration the nationality indicator. The DOS Census indicated that the total number of all registered marriages for 2004 amounted to 14,372, the largest percentage of which, as logically expected from the demographic nature of the Jordanian population, was among Jordanian women and Palestinian men amounting to 61.8%. This number was followed by 19% of marriages with Egyptian men, 6.9% Syrian, and 4.3% Iraqi.⁽³¹⁾

In general, ZENID study concluded that the majority of Jordanian women married to Palestinians tend to be descendants of Palestinian families who have immigrated to Jordan after the Israeli occupation of Palestine "Al Nakba" in 1948, therefore they are practically Jordanian, holders of Jordanian nationality. This kind of inter-marriages is considered quite ordinary and common based on personal and/or familial connections, and is seldom faced by rejection on part of the family.

Statistical Size of the Problem

The total number for all marriages registered up to 2004, the year in which the Population Census was conducted, is 14,372. This number contradicted with the accepted semi-official number that has been circulating in the press and used by Government officials of 80,000.

The largest percentage of these marriages, as logically expected due to the demographic nature of the Jordanian population, was among Jordanian women and Palestinian men amounting to 61.8%. This number was followed by 19% of marriages with Egyptian men, 6.9% Syrian, and 4.3% Iraqi.

It has generally been circulated that if Jordanian women were given the right to give their nationality to their children, this will include about half a million Palestinians as expressed by the then Minister of Interior in 2004. In the first place, this number seems exaggerated when we look at official numbers from the Department of Statistics of the total number of the non-Jordanian population in the Kingdom (412,000 in 2004 – including Palestinian, Iraqi and other nationalities – of which 231,340 are males). And, when we take a closer look at the real number of these marriages (8,876) provided by the DOS up to the year 2004 and if we multiply it by the average number of children per household in Jordanian families (5.4), the number that we get (47,930) is only a fraction of the “official” estimates given by the government.

This realization sheds a completely different light on the issue as it revokes the political justification of the danger of creating a substitute land/country for the Palestinian refugees from Gaza and the West Bank, which the Government of Jordan places on the forefront of reasons for not amending the nationality law.⁽³²⁾

Source: ZENID 2003, recounted in Abbassi, 2009.

2.5 Concluding Remarks

The Jordanian Nationality Law gives the Jordanian father the sole right to give his nationality to his wife and children. Only in cases where the child shall be rendered stateless or when his/her parenthood cannot be determined does the Jordanian legislature give any legitimacy to the mother’s nationality as a determining aspect of her children’s nationality. It does so, not as an affirmation of Jordanian women’s enjoyment of their full citizenship rights, but as a protective measure for the aforementioned child.

The main reason for not amending the law given by the government lies in the cases of children of Palestinian fathers married to Jordanian mothers and the current political situation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Giving the Jordanian nationality automatically to these children might imply the “nationalization” of Palestinian refugees with the consequence of losing their right to return to their occupied lands.

Other reasons for not amending the law is the pretext that nationality of two Arab States simultaneously is not permissible under a decision of the League of Arab States, and the objection of some States to the granting of Jordanian nationality to the children of Jordanian women married to their nationals because those States do not permit dual nationality.

However, the Nationality Law, with its gender discriminatory stipulations, remains unchanged despite the serious economic, social and psychological implications on Jordanian women married to non Jordanian men and their families, and despite the numerous recurrent requests for ‘legal amendments’ by women organizations, human rights organizations and legal experts in the field, and despite contravening with the core and substance of the international conventions on human rights, specifically the CEDAW and the convention on the Rights of the Child.

3. STUDY PROCEDURES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

This study generally aimed at identifying the size and forms of suffering experienced by Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians and their families. Specifically, the study aimed at the following objectives:

- To study and analyze the current Jordanian Nationality Law.
- To provide a reliable source of information which addresses the negative economic, social, political and psychological implications on a vital section of Jordanian citizens – that of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians, residing in Jordan.
- To provide decision-makers and politicians with field-based information regarding the personal and social characteristics of spouses in terms of: nationality of husband, age distribution of spouses, socio-economic status of the family, and implications on offspring, in view of taking the necessary procedures that will ameliorate or terminate their suffering.

3.2 Methodology

This is an exploratory, qualitative field study adopting the survey methodology by using a questionnaire as study tool to collect information from the field derived from the study sample. To achieve the study objectives, the current Jordanian Nationality Law was reviewed, as well as previous literature on the subject.

3.3 Implementation Procedures

The researcher designed a questionnaire which was adopted after being reviewed by experts in the field and approved by the parties initiating the study. The preliminary step was contacting women organizations in all Governorates to arrange for meetings and focus-group discussions with affected women groups. Main focal points were MUSAWA Network Coordinators, affiliated with the Arab Women Organization of Jordan; United for Legal Equality Coalition members, affiliated with the Human Forum for Women's Rights; a number of Study and Research Centres in various Governorates.

3.4 Study Sample

The study sample consisted of a stratified purposive sample of 191 Jordanian women married to non-Jordanian men in a number of Governorates, forming a small part of the study population, the number of which was estimated at 65,956 women by the end of 2009 according to the Ministry of Interior.

3.5 Study Limitations

The timeframe for the study was planned as four months inclusive of preparatory and implementation stages – designing the study tool and its application. However this proved unrealistic on the ground for a number of reasons: Scarcity of information provided by official authorities, especially regarding nationality of husbands; difficulty of identifying study cases in the southern Governorates of Jordan, thus limiting field application to 7 Governorates; delays in arranging meetings with affected women by local women organizations. Thus the completion of the study including all stages took four months. Another limitation was that study results were based on the personal estimations of the study sample respondents.

3.6 Study Tool

The study tool was designed after reviewing previous literature on the subject, and consisted of 33 items, mainly objective questions and a limited number of open-ended questions covering the following five areas: Firstly, Primary Data on respondents concerning age, educational status, marital status, nationality of husband, occupational status of both spouses; Secondly, Housing Environment with respect to place of domicile – city, village or camp, kind and ownership of residence; Thirdly, Income Sources, Expenditure and Ownership Status; Fourthly, Psychological Implications on women and children in terms of feelings of belongingness, estrangement, deprivation among others, in addition to guilt feelings and fears on behalf of women; Fifthly, Coping Strategies and Solutions in terms of possibility of attainment of necessary identification documents for husbands and children of Jordanian mothers.

4. STUDY RESULTS AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

1. Primary Data

Table (1)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Age and Governorate

Governorate	18 - less than 25		25 - less than 30		30 - less than 35		35 - less than 40		40 - less than 45		45 - less than 50		50 +		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	5	12.5	2	5	7	17.5	9	22.5	22.5	25	5	12.5	2	5	40
Madaba	6	8.82	10	14.70	17	25	14	20.58	20.58	19.11	5	7.35	3	4.41	68
Zarka	1	4.34	1	4.34	5	21.73	6	26.08	26.08	17.39	3	13.04	3	13.04	23
Amman	1	2.77	8	22.22	8	22.22	7	19.44	19.44	11.11	3	.33	5	13.88	36
Salt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	1
Irbed	0	0	2	14.28	6	42.85	2	14.28	14.28	14.28	2	14.28	0	0	14
Jerash	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	33.33	0	0%	4	44.44	9
Total	13	6.80	24	12.56	43	22.51	39	20.41	20.41	19.37	18	9.42	17	8.90	191

The Primary Data on the study sample comprising 191 women from 7 Governorates of Jordan namely: Mafraq, Madaba, Zarka, Amman, Salt, Irbed, and Jerash, shows in Table (1) the age-group constitution of the sample as follows:

The highest percentage of the study sample falls into the age-group 30-45 years amounting to 62.29% (A total of age categories 30-less than 35, 35-less than 40, 40-less than 45). Indicating the presence of children in their early, middle and late childhood stages, adolescence and youth, and the accompanying problems of school attendance, university registration and looking for work opportunities facing the study sample families. This is followed by the age-group 18-30 (19%), and the age-group 40 and above (18%).

It is worth mentioning that one woman of the study sample of Amman Governorate within the age-group 50 and above, is a widow of a Yemeni husband and mother of 8 (6 males and 2 females), all born in Jordan and had never visited Yemen, the eldest of whom is 49 years – born and raised and working in Jordan, and married himself to a Jordanian woman with 7 children of his own (5 males and 2 females) aged 9-21 years.

In this case, two generations of the members of the same family suffer from daily life problems resulting from not obtaining the Jordanian nationality of their mothers.

Table (2)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Educational Level and Governorate

Governorate	Below Secondary level		Secondary level		Community College		B.A.		High Diploma		M.A.		Illiterate		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	22	55	8	20	3	7.5	2	5	0	0	0	0	5	12.5	40
Madaba	23	33.82	34	50	4	5.88	3	4.41	0	0	0	0	4	5.88	68
Zarka	8	34.78	11	47.82	3	13.04	1	4.34	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
Amman	11	30.55	7	19.44	5	13.88	8	22.22	2	5.55	2	5.55	1	2.77	36
Salt	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Irbed	7	50	4	28.57	3	21.42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Jerash	4	44.44	3	33.33	2	22.22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Total	76	39.79	67	35.07	20	10.47	14	7.32	2	1.04	2	1.04	10	5.23	191

Regarding the Education Level of the study sample, Table (2) indicates that the highest percentage amounting to 75.46% falls into the Category of Below secondary level and secondary level. The table also shows that 7.32% of the sample hold a B.A., 1.04% of the sample hold a high diploma, and 1.04% hold an M.A. and that the percentage of illiterates among them amounts to 5.23% (12.5% from Mafraq, 5.88% from Madaba, 2.77% from Amman).

This could be an indication that the difficult economic situation and the low level of education of the study sample have driven their families to let them marry non Jordanian men at an early age, as the only available alternative. Notwithstanding the negative physical, social and economic impact of early marriage on young women.

Table (3)
Distribution of Study Sample According to Marital Status and Governorate

Governorate	Married		Divorced		Widowed		Abandoned		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	33	82.5	3	7.5	4	10	0	0	40
Madaba	63	92.64	2	2.94	2	2.94	1	1.47	68
Zarka	21	91.30	0	0	2	8.69	0	0	23
Amman	33	91.66	2	5.55	1	2.77	0	0	36
Salt	0	0	0	0	1		0	0	1
Irbed	10	71.42	2	14.28	2	14.28	0	0	14
Jerash	9	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Total	170	89.00	9	4.71	11	5.75	1	0.25	191

As for the Marital status of the study sample, Table (3) shows that the highest percentage of the sample amounting to 89% were married , 4.71% were divorced, 5.75% were widowed, and 0.25% abandoned.

This points out to the fact that the percentage of women who were Head of Families amounted to 10.71%, being the most negatively affected group from all aspects – economic, social, political and psychological.

Table (4)
Distribution of Study Sample According to Nationality of Husband and Governorate

Husband Nationality	Syrian	Egyptian	Iraqi	Palestinian	Lebanese	Sudanese	Saudi	Yemeni	Other*	No Nationality	Total
Mafraq	14	12	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	11	40
Madaba	7	50	4	1	0	1	0	3	2	0	68
Zarka	1	3	2	11	0	4	0	0	1	0	23
Amman	4	8	8	6	1	0	1	2	6	0	36
Salt	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Irbed	1	7	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Jerash	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9
Total	27	89	19	21	1	6	2	5	10	11	191
%	14.3	46.59	9.94	10.52	0.52	3.14	1.04	2.61	5.23	5.57	100

* Madaba (1 Bengali, 1 Turkish); Zarka (1 Afghani); Amman (2 Romanian, 1 Russian, 1 Daghestani, 1 French, 1 American); Jerash (1 Pakistani).

Considering Nationality of Husband, Table (4) indicates that the study sample husbands belonged to 17 nationalities, including 8 Arab nationalities namely: Syrian, Egyptian, Palestinian, Iraqi, Lebanese, Sudanese, Saudi, and Yemeni. The 9 Non-Arab / Foreign nationalities included: Pakistani, Bengali, Turkish, Afghani, Russian, Daghestani, Romanian, French, and American.

The table also reveals that the highest percentage of the study sample amounting to 46.59%, were married to Egyptian men which does not seem out of the ordinary, and is a reflection of the labour market, due to the large numbers of Egyptian young men working in all Governorates of Jordan. This was followed in the second place by marriage to Syrians (14.13%), and in the third place to Palestinians from Gaza (10.99%), and fourthly to Iraqis (9.94%).

Other nationalities of husbands included: Sudanese (3.14%), Yemeni (2.61%), Saudi 1.04%. In addition to other sporadic cases mentioned in the above footnote.

The scant number of cases of marriage to Palestinian men was noticeable in each of Mafraq (one case out of 40 women); in Madaba (one case out of 68 women); in Irbed (one case out of 14 women); and no cases in Jerash out

of 9 women. These figures are pointed out in comparison to information relayed in a previous Jordanian study in 2003 on the 'right of woman to transfer her nationality' stating that the official Government stand on the issue of conferring the Jordanian nationality upon husbands and children of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians "is a reflection of the Government policy of rejecting the evacuation of the Palestinian territories, and that of creating a substitute homeland, based on the fact that Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians were mostly married to Palestinian men".

A most serious issue revealed in the field survey as table 14 indicates was the presence of cases of stateless husbands and children with 'No Nationality' in the Mafraq Governorate, amounting to 5.75% of the study sample families (27.5% of the Mafraq sample). This grave situation needs the immediate attention of all parties concerned especially that of the official authorities.

Table (5)
Distribution of Study Sample According to Employment Status of Wife and Governorate

Governorate	Non-Wage Worker		Wage Worker		Area of Work		Total
	No.	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	24	60	15	37.5	1	2.5	40
Madaba	53	77.94	12	17.64	3	4.41	68
Zarka	21	91.30	2	8.69	0	0	23
Amman	22	61.11	13	36.11	1	2.77	36
Salt	1		0	0	0	0	1
Irbed	14	100	0	0	0	0	14
Jerash	6	66.66	2	22.22	1	11.11	9
Total	141	73.82	44	23.03	6	3.14	191

The Employment status of the study sample as shown in Table (5) indicates that highest percentage of women were non-wage workers (not employed) amounting to 73.82%, while wage workers among them amounted to 23.03%. This might be attributed to the low educational status of the study sample as revealed in Table (2) whereby 39.79% of the sample belonged to the 'less than secondary level' category, while only 35.14% have completed the secondary level. The above Table also shows that 3.14% of the study sample worked at varied jobs amounting to 3.14%.

Descriptive List (1) details scope of work mentioned by the working wives among study sample in different Governorates as follows:

School Principal, sanitary cleaner, house servant, worker in clothing factory, tailor, hairdresser, farm worker, employed at Ministry or Education, Engineer at the Ministry of Health, Janitor, nanny, engineer/project manager, Teacher of Koran Recital, Lawyer, worker at Herbs centre, worker in garden landscaping, manager in the Ministry of Health, manager in a Government institution.

Table (6)
Distribution of Study Sample According to Employment Status of Husband and Governorate

Governorate	Employee		Specialized Profession		Commercial Trade		Technical		Agriculture		Other		Not Employed/Deceased		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	0	0	3	7.5	5	12.5	1	2.5	5	12.5	13	32.5	13	32.5	40
Madaba	2	2.94	12	17.64	4	5.88	11	16.17	3	4.41	30	44.11	6	8.82	68
Zarka	1	4.34	0	0	0	0	3	13.04	0	0	16	69.56	3	13.04	23
Amman	6	16.66	2	5.55	7	19.44	5	13.88	0	0	13	36.11	3	8.33	36
Salt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100	1
Irbed	0	0	0	0	1	7.14	0	0	1	7.14	8	57.14	4	28.57	14
Jerash	0	0	0	0	1	11.11	0	0	2	22.22	1	11.11	5	55.55	9
Total	9	4.71	17	8.90	18	9.42	20	10.47	11	5.75	85	44.50	31	16.23	191

Employment status of study sample Husbands as shown in Table (6) reveals that only 4.71% are employed, and 8.90% have a specialized profession, while 9.42% work in Free commercial trade, and 5.75% work in Agriculture.

The highest percentage of study sample husbands amounting to 44.50% work in other areas than those mentioned in alternatives, encompassing a large variety of low and underpaid jobs, in which the title "labourer" often recurred, in view of the limited scope of jobs open for non-Jordanian labour. These job areas included: Labourer in: construction, cafeteria, restaurant, leather dying, Sweet shop, Bakery, loading/unloading, sanitary vehicle worker, street stall attendant, Vegetable sales, ladies hairdresser, barber, Bus workshop, tailor shop, farm worker, brick layer, paint worker, wall construction, and shepherd.

Other Areas of Work included: Plumber, clothing salesman, sheep herd trader, driver, guard, ironing shop worker. In addition to jobs as: Engineer, Artist, Insurance company employee, and retired school teacher.

It is observed that the nature of jobs undertaken by study sample husbands is generally low-paid, not requiring high standard of education, indicating the lower socio-economic standard of study sample families, and pointing out to the limited work opportunities open to non-Jordanian husbands.

Table (7)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Number of Children in the Family and Governorate

Governorate	Males	%	Females	%	Total	%
Mafraq	72	0.37	58	0.30	130	21.45
Madaba	108	0.56	77	0.40	185	30.52
Zarka	41	0.21	52	0.27	93	15.43
Amman	58	0.30	52	0.27	110	18.15
Salt	3	0.15	0	0	3	0.49
Irbed	23	0.12	20	0.10	43	7.09
Jerash	17	0.08	25	0.13	42	6.93
Total	322	53.13	284	46.86	606	100

The overall number of children in the families of the study sample as indicated by Table (7) amounts to 606 in all Governorates studied, 35.13% males and 46.86% females, with ages ranging between 6 months and 49 years, which clearly points out to the size and depth of suffering borne during the different life stages of the study sample offspring- childhood, Youth, and Middle-age. In Madaba children ages ranged from 3 months - 24 years; in Jerash 3 years - 19 years, in Zarka from 1 year - 24 years; in Amman from 2 months - 49 years.

2. Environment and Housing

Table (8)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Place of Residence and Governorate

Governorate	City		Village		Camp		Badia		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	14	35	21	52.5	0	0	5	12.5	40
Madaba	53	77.94	14	20.58	1	1.47	0	0	68
Zarka	23	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
Amman	30	83.33	0	0	6	16.66	0	0	36
Salt	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Irbed	7	50	6	42.85	1	7.14	0	0	14
Jerash	1	11.11	8	88.88	0	0	0	0	9
Total	129	67.53	49	25.65	8	4.18	5	2.61	191

Table (8) above indicates that the place of residence of the study sample families is largely in Cities amounting to 67.53%, to which higher incidence of inter-marriages is attributed as a result of the exceeding numbers of external labour pouring into Jordan's big cities. This is followed by living in Villages (25.65%), in Camps (4.18%), and least of all in Badia (2.61%).

Table (9)**Distribution of Study Sample According to Kind of Housing and Governorate**

Governorate	Separate House		Flat in Building		Villa		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	35	87.5	5	12.5	0	0	40
Madaba	33	48.52	35	51.47	0	0	68
Zarka	7	30.43	16	69.56	0	0	23
Amman	4	11.11	32	88.88	0	0	36
Salt	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Irbed	8	57.14	6	42.85	0	0	14
Jerash	9	100	0	0	0	0	9
Total	97	50.78	94	49.21	0	0	191

Table (9) above indicates that the highest percentage of the study sample families live in a separate house (50.78%), followed by living in a building apartment (49.21%).

None of the study sample families live in a villa, pointing out to the lower socio-economic status of the study sample families.

Table (10)**Distribution of Study Sample According to Housing Ownership and Governorate**

Governorate	Family Owned		Rented		Owned by Relatives		Live with Wife's Family		Live with Husband's Family		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	15	37.5	17	42.5	3	7.5	4	10	1	2.5	40
Madaba	5	7.35	57	83.82	3	4.41	1	1.47	2	2.94	68
Zarka	5	21.73	17	73.91	0	0	1	4.34	0	0	23
Amman	11	30.55	20	55.55	3	8.33	2	5.55	0	0	36
Salt	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Irbed	1	7.14	10	71.42	2	14.28	1	7.14	0	0	14
Jerash	5	55.55	3	33.33	1	11.11	0	0	0	0	9
Total	43	22.51	124	64.92	12	6.28	9	4.71	3	1.57	191

As for Housing Ownership, Table (10) shows that the highest percentage (64.92%) of the sample live in a rented residence, while 22.51% live in a family-owned residence. The rest of the sample families are distributed between living in a relative-owned residence (6.28%), with the wife's family (4.71%), or with the husband's family (1.57%); pointing out to the restricted ownership of the study sample families, and to the low socio-economic status of the study sample.

Table (11)**Distribution of Study Sample According to Permanent Place of Residence and Governorate**

Governorate	Mother Homeland		Father Homeland		Total
	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	40	100	0	0	40
Madaba	67	98.52	1	1.47	68
Zarka	23	100	0	0	23
Amman	36	100	0	0	36
Salt	1	100	0	0	1
Irbed	14	100	0	0	14
Jerash	9	100	0	0	9
Total	190	99.47	1	0.52	191

Regarding the Permanent Place of Residence for the family, Table (11) shows that 190 out of the 191 study sample families, amounting to 99.47%, indicated that family's permanent place of residence was at the mother's homeland – Jordan.

The main reasons mentioned for the choice of Mother's Homeland for residence as stated in Descriptive List (3) were:

Death of the father, lack of identification documents for father, wife works in Jordan, father's expired passport since 1999, mother holds Jordanian Passport and ID, separation from spouse, husband is a run-away, no alternative domicile to Jordan, no passport to exit the country, absence of husband since 2002, difficult political and economic situation in father's country, father was born in Jordan, the comfort and security the family feels in Jordan, living among family and relatives in Jordan, family objection to living outside Jordan, husband's investment in Jordan, and feeling of belongingness to the mother's homeland.

3. Income, Expenditure, and Ownership

Table (12 a)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Family Monthly Income and Governorate

Governorate	Less than 150		151 - 250		250 - 350		351 - 450		451 - 550		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	26	65	10	25	4	10	0	0	0	0	40
Madaba	30	44.11	24	35.29	4	5.88	3	4.41	1	1.47	68
Zarka	8	34.78	10	43.47	2	8.69	1	4.34	1	4.34	23
Amman	6	16.66	8	22.22	4	11.11	3	8.33	2	5.55	36
Salt	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Irbed	11	78.57	3	21.42	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Jerash	4	44.44	3	33.33	1	11.11	0	0	0	0	9
Total	86	45.02	58	30.36	15	7.85	7	3.66	4	2.09	191

Table (12 b)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Family Monthly Income and Governorate

Governorate	550 - 650		651 - 800		801 - 950		1000 +		Other		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0
Madaba	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	68	8.82
Zarka	1	4.34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0
Amman	4	11.11	1	2.77	1	6	2.77	1	16.66	36	2.77
Salt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Irbed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0
Jerash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	11.11
Total	5	2.61	1	0.52	1	6	0.52	8	3.14	191	4.18

As for the Family Monthly Income, Table (12 a) and (12 b), indicate that the highest percentage of the study sample families (75.38%) fall into the lower-income category and lower socio-economic status whose monthly income ranged between (less than 150JD-250JD), most of whom were primarily from the Irbed Governorate sample, followed by Mafraq sample.

This percentage gradually becomes lower in the income categories of (251-350), (351-450), (451-550), (550-650), (651-800), (801-950); amounting in consecutive order to: 7.85%, 3.66%, 2.09%, 2.61%, 0.52%, and 0.52%.

However the income category of (1000 and above) amounted to 3.14% of the total study sample, all of whom were from Amman Governorate sample.

Noting that the monthly income of 45.02% of the study sample fell below 150JD monthly income, indicating that individuals in this category live below 'poverty line'. 4.18% of those indicated receiving 40-60JD as monthly assistance from the Ministry of Social Development, or other assistance from own family, the United Nations, and benevolent donors.

Table (13)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Sufficiency of Monthly Income and Governorate

Governorate	Sufficient for Necessary Needs		Insufficient for Necessary Needs		Sufficient for Necessary/ Basic and Secondary Needs		Surplus to Needs		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	1	2.5	39	97.5	0	0	0	0	40
Madaba	10	14.70	56	82.35	2	2.94	0	0	68
Zarka	8	34.78	13	56.52	2	8.69	0	0	23
Amman	11	30.55	17	47.22	8	22.22	0	0	36
Salt	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0	1
Irbed	1	7.14	13	92.85	0	0	0	0	14
Jerash	0	0	9	100	0	0	0	0	9
Total	31	16.23	148	77.48	12	6.28	0	0	191

On the other hand, Table (13) show that 77.48% of the study sample indicated that their monthly income was insufficient for their necessary daily needs, 16.23% of the sample indicated income was sufficient barely for necessary needs, and 6.28% of the sample said the income was sufficient for necessary basic needs and secondary needs. These results point out to the very low economic status of the study sample of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians and their families, confirming the findings of previous studies referred to in section 2.3.

Table (14)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Sources of Family Income and Governorate

Governorate	Monthly salary for Husband		Monthly salary for Wife		Retirement Benefits		Rents		Monthly salary for Husband and Wife	Other		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No		
Mafraq	4	10	11	27.5	2	5	1	2.5	0	0	22	55	40
Madaba	31	45.58	9	13.23	0	0	3	4.41	4	5.88	21	30.88	68
Zarka	9	39.13	2	8.69	1	4.34	0	0	0	0	11	47.82	23
Amman	10	27.77	5	13.88	1	2.77	0	0	5	13.88	15	41.66	36
Salt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100	1
Irbed	5	35.71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	64.28	14
Jerash	2	22.22	4	44.44	1	11.11	0	0	0	0	2	22.22	9
Total	61	31.93	31	16.23	5	2.61	4	2.09	9	4.71	81	42.40	191

Regarding the **Sources of Family Income**, Table (14) shows that 31.93% of the sample indicated a monthly income for the husband, while 16.23% has indicated the wife's monthly income as a source, and 4.71% mentioned monthly incomes of both husband and wife. Only 2.61% of the sample indicated a retirement salary, and 2.09% indicated Rent revenues.

Other sources of income for the family amounted to the high percentage of 42.40% pointing to gaining monthly revenues from other varied, non-stable daily jobs, highlighting the heavy economic burdens and psychological implications of limiting the husbands and adult children of Jordanian wives to seeking certain jobs, in addition to difficulties of obtaining or renewing work permits, and the high fees paid for residence, education, and health care.

These varied sources of income from low-paid, daily-based wages comprise: Building construction, agriculture, nursing, sewing, hairdressing, furniture upholstery, carpentry, trading; in addition to assistance received from husband and wife families, the United Nations and wife's father retirement benefits. Also from other institutions such as: Women's Affairs Department, Social Development Ministry, and National Aid Fund.

Table (15)**Distribution of Study Sample According to Property Ownership of Wife and Governorate**

Governorate	Property		Vehicles		Land		Other		Non		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	2	5	1	25	2	5	3	7.5	32	80	40
Madaba	4	5.88	2	2.94	7	10.29	1	1.47	54	79.41	68
Zarka	3	13.04	1	4.34	1	4.34	2	8.69	16	69.56	23
Amman	7	19.44	10	27.77	0	0	0	0	19	52.77	36
Salt	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Irbed	0	0	2	14.28	2	14.28	0	0	10	71.42	14
Jerash	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	11.11	8	88.88	9
Total	17	8.90	16	8.37	12	6.28	7	3.66	139	72.77	191

Table (16)**Distribution of Study Sample According to Property Ownership of Husband and Governorate**

Governorate	Property		Vehicles		Land		Other		Non		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	1	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	97.5	40
Madaba	0	0	0	0	1	1.47	0	0	67	98.52	68
Zarka	1	4.34	1	4.34	0	0	0	0	21	91.30	23
Amman	3	8.33	3	8.33	0	0	0	0	30	83.33	36
Salt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100	1
Irbed	0	0	1	7.14	0	0	0	0	13	92.85	14
Jerash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	100	9
Total	5	2.61	5	2.61	1	0.52	0	0	180	94.24	191

Concerning **Ownership of Assets**, Tables (15) and (16) indicate the very low percentage of ownership for both spouses in the study sample, whereby property ownership for husband and wife consecutively amounted to 8.90% and 2.61%, vehicle ownership amounted to 6.28% and 2.61%, land ownership amounted to 6.28% and .52%. 'No property owned' was indicated by 72.27% of wives, and 94.24% of husbands.

The meager property ownership by husbands of study sample is attributed to the lack of property rights enjoyed by these husbands, in which case the study sample women were obliged to register property and land in their own name. One woman in the study sample expressed her great fear for the future of her adult children "All my son's and daughters property is registered in my name being Jordanian and have the right to own property, I fear in case of my illness or death that all my children's rights will be lost. I also fear the severance of diplomatic relations between my country Jordan and my children's country, and the possible consequences of their deportation from the country or limiting their freedoms".

Table (17)**Distribution of Study Sample According to Main Expenditure Avenues and Governorate**

Sectors of Expenditure	Mafraq	Madaba	Zarka	Amman	Salt	Irbed	Jerash	Total	%
Education	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	5	2.6
Health Care	1	6	2	3	0	1	0	11	5.75
Food and Clothing	8	11	5	11	0	0	0	30	15.70
Work permit fees	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.75
Residence permit fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All of the above	31	46	16	19	1	13	9	135	70.68

As for **Avenues of Monthly Expenditure**, Table (17) shows that 70.68% of the study sample mentioned that all expenditure avenues were important among the alternatives mentioned: education, health care, daily life expenses on food and clothing , work permit fees, residence permit fees. However the two aspects of expenditure identified as the most important by the study sample were: firstly, daily life expenses on food and clothing (15.70%) and secondly,

health care expenses (5.75%). These choices point out to the two most basic needs on which the study sample families' livelihoods depend.

4. Psychological Implications

Table (18)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Feeling of Belongingness to Mother's or Father's Homeland and Governorate

Governorate	Mother Homeland		Father Homeland		Total
	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	39	97.5	1	2.5	40
Madaba	64	94.11	4	5.88	68
Zarka	23	100	0	0	23
Amman	33	91.66	3	8.33	36
Salt	1	100	0	0	1
Irbed	14	100	0	0	14
Jerash	9	100	0	0	9
Total	183	95.81	8	4.18	191

Regarding the **Feeling of Belongingness** to Mother's or Father's Homeland, Table (18) indicates that the majority of the study sample amounting to 95.81% believed that their children had feelings of belongingness to the mother's homeland – Jordan – while a meager percentage amounting to 4.18% felt their children had feelings of belongingness to the father's homeland . Causes were attributed by the study sample to the following: children were born and raised in this homeland; mother is Jordanian; father is resident in Jordan; father is deceased; father was born in Jordan; feeling comfort and security in Jordan; children's belief that they were Jordanian themselves; children were nurtured on the love of Jordan; children lived and studied in Jordan; because Mother is the one to raise children.

All the aforementioned causes coincide with previous studies in the field, and the remarks made by Dr. Fouad Abdul Mun'em in his comparative study on the Issue of Nationality indicating that "the child's first and earliest inherent connection to the national community is formed through his/her mother, the mother's womb being the first homeland for the child, as the mother is the one taking charge of child rearing during the child's first formative years, in which the emotional growth is formed and feelings of belongingness identified".

Table (19)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Degree of Experiencing the Following Feelings by Children and Governorate: Non-Belongingness, Estrangement, Non-Stability, Inferiority, Rejection, Anger, and Deprivation

Degree of Experiencing Following Feeling	Very High	%	High	%	Medium	%	Low	%	Very Low	%
Non-Belongingness	42	21.98	26	13.61	40	20.94	24	12.56	59	30.89
Estrangement	45	23.56	24	12.56	42	21.98	27	14.13	53	27.74
Non-Stability	44	23.03	37	19.37	47	24.60	23	12.04	40	20.94
Inferiority	45	23.56	26	13.61	55	28.79	29	15.18	36	18.84
Rejection	53	27.74	31	16.23	46	24.08	25	13.08	36	18.84
Anger	49	25.65	26	13.61	55	28.79	28	14.65	33	17.27
Deprivation	66	34.55	23	12.04	46	24.08	30	15.70	26	13.61

As for the Degree of Experiencing Negative Feelings by Children, according to the study sample perception, such as: Feeling of non-belongingness; feeling of estrangement; feeling of instability; feeling of inferiority; feeling of rejection by society; feeling of anger; and feeling of deprivation.

Table (19) indicates lower feelings of non-belongingness by 43.45% of the study sample which coincides with results of Table (18) which revealed that 95.8% of the study sample offspring had feelings of belongingness to their mother's homeland – Jordan; Table (19) also indicated lower feelings of estrangement amounting to 41.87% felt by the study

sample offspring as envisaged by the study sample. This clearly highlights the positive correlation existing between 'low feeling of non-belongingness' and 'low feelings of estrangement'.

'Feelings of Deprivation' among study sample offspring received the first highest percentage of responses among other negative feelings amounting to 46.59%, which coincides with the results of Descriptive List no. (6) as to causes of the daily suffering of offspring being: deprivation of needed food and clothing, deprivation of education opportunities and healthcare, deprivation of work in government posts, treatment in government hospitals, decent housing, travel outside the country (for lack of official documents), and deprivation of all services rendered to other Jordanian citizens.

'Feeling of Rejection from Society' received the second highest percentage from study sample amounting to 43.97%. Followed by 'feeling of non-stability' (42.4%), 'feeling of anger' (39.26%), 'feeling of inferiority' (37.17%).

It is generally concluded from Table (19) that the offspring of Jordanian women married to non Jordanians suffer to various degrees from all the negative feelings specified in the Table which clearly points out to the gravity of the psychological implications of not obtaining the Jordanian Nationality for their offspring. This being the main thing that would lessen their suffering, help them to regain their self respect, and preserve their citizenship rights on equal basis with Jordanian offspring born to 'foreign mothers'. Especially with regards to Table (17) results noting the high feeling of belongingness to the mother's homeland – Jordan – amounting to 95.81%.

Table (20)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Fear of Reverting to Family for Refuge and Governorate

Governorate	Always		Mostly		Sometimes		Rarely		Never		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	14	35	6	15	8	20	0	0	12	30	40
Madaba	27	39.70	8	11.76	10	14.70	5	7.35	18	26.47	68
Zarka	3	13.04	0	0	3	13.04	0	0	17	73.91	23
Amman	8	22.22	6	16.66	7	19.44	1	2.77	14	38.88	36
Salt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100	1
Irbed	2	14.28	1	7.14	2	14.28	1	7.14	8	57.14	14
Jerash	3	33.33	1	11.11	2	22.22	0	0	3	33.33	9
Total	57	29.84	22	11.51	32	16.75	7	3.66	73	38.21	191

Regarding the 'Fears' haunting the Jordanian mothers married to non-Jordanians, Table (20) reveals that the highest percentage of the study sample indicated the 'fear of having to seek refuge at their families' after their marriage amounting to 61.76%, indicating dreading the consequences of seeking their families help, for their past disapproval of the marriage.

Table (21)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Fear of Husband's Sudden Departure of the Country and Governorate

Governorate	Always		Mostly		Sometimes		Rarely		Never		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	12	30	3	7.5	4	10	3	7.5	18	45	40
Madaba	37	54.41	7	10.29	9	13.23	3	4.41	12	17.64	68
Zarka	11	47.82	2	8.69	3	13.04	0	0	7	30.43	23
Amman	21	58.33	4	11.11	4	11.11	2	5.55	5	13.88	36
Salt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100	1
Irbed	7	50	1	7.14	0	0	0	0	6	42.85	14
Jerash	3	33.33	0	11.11	1	11.11	1	11.11	3	33.33	9
Total	91	47.64	18	9.42	21	10.99	9	4.71	52	27.22	191

Also 62.76% of the study sample revealed their fear for 'their husband's sudden departure from the country', or returning to their own countries. This notion was widely expressed during focus group discussions and while filling the Questionnaire forms. One newly married young woman who has a one-year-old daughter, expressed the following feelings: "I continuously fear from severing of relations between my country Jordan and my husband's country, and having to leave the country with my husband, something that I find very hard to bear".

Table (22)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Fear of Kidnapping of Children and Governorate

Governorate	Always		Mostly		Sometimes		Rarely		Never		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	11	27.5	2	5	14	35	1	2.5	12	30	40
Madaba	44	64.70	4	5.88	5	7.35	6	8.82	9	13.23	68
Zarka	8	34.78	2	8.69	2	8.69	1	4.34	10	43.47	23
Amman	11	30.55	0	0	4	11.11	3	8.33	18	50	36
Salt	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Irbed	6	42.85	0	0	3	21.42	3	21.42	2	14.28	14
Jerash	3	33.33	0	0	2	22.22	2	22.22	2	22.22	9
Total	84	43.97	8	4.18	30	15.70	16	8.37	53	27.74	191

Regarding the 'Fear of the study sample for Kidnapping of their Children', a high overall percentage amounting to 72.2% of the study sample expressed their fear for the exposure of their children to kidnapping, at different levels: 'Always' amounted to 43.97%; 'Mostly' amounted to 4.18%; 'Sometimes' amounted to 15.70%; 'Rarely' amounting to 8.37%; 'Never' amounting to 27.74%. The last option of 'never' seeming like a meager percentage compared to the other levels of responses.

Table (23)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Guilt Feelings over Children's Future and Governorate

Governorate	Always		Mostly		Sometimes		Rarely		Never		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	33	82.5	3	7.5	1	2.5	1	2.5	2	5	40
Madaba	54	79.41	3	4.41	4	5.88	0	0	7	10.29	68
Zarka	18	78.26	2	8.69	2	8.69	0	0	1	4.34	23
Amman	20	55.55	3	8.33	6	16.66	1	2.77	6	16.66	36
Salt	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Irbed	11	78.27	1	7.14	1	7.14	1	7.14	0	0	14
Jerash	8	88.88	1	11.11	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Total	145	75.91	13	6.80	14	9.42	3	1.57	16	8.37	191

As for **Guilt Feelings** experienced by Jordanian mothers married to non-Jordanians over 'the future of their children', an overall high percentage of the study sample amounting to 93.07% revealed experiencing an overwhelming guilt feeling towards the Future of their offspring, at all levels: always, mostly, sometimes, rarely. 75.91% of the study sample responded 'Always', as compared to 8.37% who responded 'Never'.

The above results coincide with the findings of the Zein Al Sharaf Institute study of 2003 which revealed that many women in their study sample experienced feelings of guilt and helplessness regarding the critical and non stable situation they put their children in.

Results also coincide with those of the Regional study, 2004 with regards to the similarities of feelings shared by Arab women from eight Arab countries relevant to "Experiencing 'Guilt Feelings' for destroying the future of their own children by marrying men from different nationality to their own".

Table (24)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Considering the Deprivation of Children from their Mother's Nationality A Form of Discrimination and Violence Against Women and Children and Governorate

Governorate	Discrimination Against Woman		Violence Against Women		Discrimination against Children		Violence against Children		Discrimination against Women and Children		Violence against Women and Children		All the above		Total
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	3	7.5	0	0	8	20	1	2.5	0	0	0	0	28	70	40
Madaba	7	10.29	2	2.94	8	11.76	1	1.47	5	7.35	0	0	45	66.17	68
Zarka	2	8.69	0	0	7	30.43	0	0	2	8.69	0	0	12	52.17	23
Amman	8	22.22	1	2.77	2	5.55	0	0	1	2.77	0	0	24	66.66	36
Salt	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Irbed	2	14.28	0	0	2	14.28	0	0	1	7.14	0	0	9	64.28	14
Jerash	0	0	0	0	1	11.11	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	88.88	9
Total	23	12.04	3	1.57	28	14.65	2	1.04	9	4.71	0	0	126	65.96	191

Table (24) above revealed that 65.96% of the study sample expressed their belief that depriving their children of obtaining the Jordanian nationality is a form of discrimination against women and children altogether. This is in congruence with the stipulations of both the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW),⁽³³⁾ with respect to the right of the child of acquiring a nationality since his birth, and the right of a woman to confer her nationality upon her children. Both of these conventions have been ratified by Jordan and published in the Official Gazette, the first on 16/10/2006, and the second on 26/7/ 2007, which makes them legally binding and an integral part of the Jordanian legislature, hence both conventions could be used in court cases.⁽³⁴⁾

5. Coping Strategies and Solutions

Table (25)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Expectation of Ensuing Problems Prior to Marriage and Governorate

Governorate	Yes		No		Total
	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	7	17.5	33	82.5	40
Madaba	16	23.52	52	76.47	68
Zarka	1	4.34	22	95.65	23
Amman	6	16.66	30	83.33	36
Salt	0	0	1	0	1
Irbed	2	14.28	12	85.71	14
Jerash	0	0	9	100	9
Total	32	16.75	159	83.24	191

With regards to 'Expecting the Future Problems Facing the Family' by study sample, Table (25) indicates that 83.24% of the study sample have not expected any of the future problems encountered, which coincides with the results of the Regional study, 2004 revealing that most women in their study sample from 8 Arab countries have not expected or predicted any of the problems resulting from marrying a non-national.

This clearly points out to the critical issue of 'Awareness-Raising' on part of governmental and non-governmental organizations alike, women's rights organizations, and the Media.

Table (26)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Reverting to Solutions for Ameliorating Children's Suffering and Governorate

Governorate	Yes		No		Total
	No	%	No	%	
Mafraq	22	55	18	45	40
Madaba	23	33.82	45	66.17	68
Zarka	13	56.52	10	43.47	23
Amman	11	30.55	25	69.44	36
Salt	1	0	0	0	1
Irbed	12	85.71	2	14.28	14
Jerash	5	55.55	4	44.44	9
Total	87	45.54	104	54.45	191

As for the **Coping Strategies** the study sample reverted to in order to ameliorate the suffering of their children, Table (26) indicates that 45.54% of the study sample have reverted to a number of solutions to ameliorate their children's suffering; while 54.45% of the study sample indicated not seeking any solutions.

Regarding the Nature of Solutions that the study sample tried seeking were as indicated in Descriptive List (11):

Requesting intervention of 'Wasta', i.e. reverting to favouritism for obtaining the Jordanian Nationality, Seeking assistance of Voluntary Societies, Seeking help from Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and Grievances Bureau, Seeking help from Passport Department and Civil Affairs Department, Presenting Petitions to the Royal Hashemite Court, Seeking Exemptions from work permit fees and residence fees, Trying to leave the country for a European country which gives children nationality rights and all other rights.

Table (27)

Distribution of Study Sample According to Possibility of Obtaining the Following Documents by Husbands and Children and Governorate: Family Document, Identity Card, Passport, Residence Permit, Work Permit, Travel Permit, Travel Visa, Driving License, Bank Account, University Registration

Possibility of Obtaining for Husband and Children	Weak	%	Very weak	%	Not possible	%	Possible if WASTA is available	%
Family Book	61	31.93	31	16.23	33	17.27	66	34.55
Identification	59	30.89	33	17.27	39	20.41	60	31.41
Passport	49	25.65	34	17.80	40	20.94	68	35.60
Residence	57	29.84	29	15.18	21	10.99	84	43.97
Work Permit	53	27.74	28	14.65	24	12.56	86	45.02
Travel permit	60	31.41	31	16.23	18	9.42	82	42.93
Visas	62	32.46	27	14.13	21	10.99	81	42.40
Driving License	52	27.22	30	15.70	33	17.27	76	39.79
Bank Account	55	28.79	21	10.99	25	13.08	90	47.12
Registration university	50	26.17	28	14.65	29	15.18	84	43.97

As for the **Possibility of Obtaining the Necessary Identification Documents** for their Husbands and Children to facilitate their living conditions, Table (27) indicates 'the weak' and 'very weak' possibility according to the study sample opinions, of obtaining the Family Book (48.16%); the ID (48.16%); Jordanian Passport (43.45%); Residence Permit (45.02 %); Work Permit (42.39%); Travel Permit (47.59 %); Driving License (42.92 %); Bank Account (39.78%); University Registration (44.82 %).

The tendency of the study sample of leaning towards the scant possibility of obtaining all aforementioned official documents points out to the extent of hopelessness, despair and frustration felt by the study sample. However the table also points out to the belief that using favouritism would increase the possibility to a certain extent (between 31.41% and 47.12%). This highlights the trend of using 'WASTA' in Jordanian society.

5. DISCUSSION OF STUDY RESULTS

This study aimed at identifying the economic, social, political and psychological implications on the families of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians, from the view point of the study sample – the women themselves whose number amounted to 191 women distributed over seven governorates of Jordan: Mafraq, Madaba, Zarka, Amman, Salt, Irbed and Jarash.

Analysis of Results Revealed the Following:

Primary Data on study sample showed in Table (1) that the highest percentage of study sample fell into the age group 30-45 years amounting to 62.20% indicating the presence of children in their early, middle and late childhood stages, adolescence and youth, and the accompanying problems of school attendance, university registration and looking for work opportunities facing the study sample families. Table (2) points out to the low educational level of the study sample amounting to 75.45% (39.79% of whom were below secondary level, with only 35.07% completing the secondary level), and the percentage of illiterates among them amounting to 5.23%, indicating that economic hardships and the low educational level may have driven the families of the study sample to approve their daughters' early marriage to non-Jordanian suitors despite the negative implications of early marriage on the young women and their families, physically, socially and economically.

As for the **Marital Status** of the study sample , the highest percentage of them were married (89%), with 4.71% divorced, 5.75% widowed, 10.71% were Heads of their families, the latter group being the most negatively affected.

Regarding the **Husband's Nationality**, Table (4) shows that the study sample spouses belong to 17 nationalities, among them eight Arab nationalities, these are: Syrian, Egyptian, Palestinian, Iraqi, Lebanese, Sudanese, Saudi, and Yemeni. The nine Non-Jordanian/Foreign nationalities included: Pakistani, Bengali, Turkish, Afghani, Russian, Daghestani, Romanian, French, and American.

Table (4) also revealed that the highest percentage of the study sample amounting to 46.59%, were married to Egyptian men which does not seem out of the ordinary, and is a reflection of the labour market constitution, due to the large numbers of Egyptian young men working in all Governorates of Jordan. This was followed by marriage to Syrians (14.13%), Palestinians from Gaza (10.99%), and Iraqis (9.94%).

*A most serious issue revealed by the field study was the presence of cases of **stateless husbands and children** in Mafraq Governorate, amounting to 5.75% of the study sample families (27.5% of the Mafraq sample). This situation needs the immediate attention of all parties concerned especially that of the official authorities.*

As for the **Employment Status** of the study sample, it was revealed that a high percentage of them amounting to 73.82% were not employed, the employed women amounted to 23.03%. This might be related to the lower educational status of the study sample. 3.14% of the sample were working in various non-organized, irregular, lower-paid fields of labour.

As for the **employment status of the study sample spouses**, it was revealed that the highest percentage of them were working in 'other fields' other than the ones mentioned in the alternatives, amounting to (44.50%), most recurrent of which were daily labourer. This could be attributed to the fact that many jobs are not open for non-Jordanians, in addition to the restrictions of obtaining a work permit. It is also noticeable that the nature of jobs falls into the lower wage caliber, requiring lower educational standards, pointing out to the lower socio-economic status of the study sample families, and to the limited work opportunities open to them.

As for the total **Number of children of the study sample**, Table (7) indicates that it amounts to 606 (53.13% males and 46.86% females) with their ages ranging between 6 months and 49 years. This points out to the gravity and long-standing duration of the problem stretching over all stages of life – childhood, youth and middle-age.

Concerning the **Place of Residence** of the study sample, Table (8) shows that the highest percentage of the study sample families live in the city (67.53%), to which these inter-marriages are attributed as a result of the exceeding numbers of external labour pouring into Jordan's big cities.

As for the **Kind of Residence**, approximate percentages of the study sample live in an independent house (50%), and in an apartment building (49.21%). None of the families live in a villa, considering the low socio-economic status of the study sample families. Regarding the **Ownership of Residence**, Table (10) shows that the highest percentage (64.92%) of the sample live in a rented residence, while 22.51% live in a family-owned residence, The rest of the sample families are distributed between living in a relatives-owned residence (6.28%), or with the wife's family (4.71%), or with the husband's family (1.57%); pointing out to the restricted ownership of the study sample families, and to the low socio-economic status of the study sample.

Regarding the **Permanent Place of Residence** for the family, 190 out of the 191 study sample individuals amounting to 99.47% indicated that family's permanent place of residence was at the mother's homeland – Jordan. The main reasons mentioned for this choice were; Absence or death of husband, feeling of belongingness to the mother's homeland, Husband's investing in Jordan, objection of the wife's family to living outside Jordan.

As for the **Family Monthly Income**, Tables (12 a) and (12 b) indicate that the highest percentage of the study sample families were in the lower-income group and lower socio-economic status whose monthly income ranged between 150JD-250JD most of whom were primarily from the Irbid Governorate sample, followed by Mafraq. Noting that the monthly income of 45.02% of the study sample falls below 150JD, indicating that individuals in this category live under 'poverty line'. 4.18% of those indicated receiving 40-60 JD as monthly assistance from the Ministry of Social Development, or other assistance from own family, the United Nations, and benevolent donors. As for the category receiving a monthly income over 1000 JD, its percentage amounted only to 3.14% and was limited to the Governorate of Amman.

On the other hand, 77.48% of the study sample indicated that their monthly income was insufficient for their necessary daily needs, 16.23% of the sample indicated income was sufficient barely for necessary needs, and only 6.28% of the sample said the income was sufficient for necessary and secondary /luxurious items of living. These results point out to the very low economic status of the study sample of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians and their families, confirming the findings of previous studies.

Regarding the **Sources of Family Income** Table (14) shows that 31.93% of the sample indicated an income of the husband, while 16.23% has indicated the wife's income as a source, and 4.71% mentioned incomes of both husband and wife.

Other sources of income for the family amounted to the high percentage of 42.40% gaining their monthly income from varied, non-stable daily jobs, highlighting the heavy economic burdens and psychological implications of limiting the husbands and adult children of Jordanian wives to seeking certain jobs, in addition to difficulties of obtaining or renewing work permits, and the high fees paid for residence, education, and health care. These varied sources of income include low-paid, daily based wages, in addition to assistance received from husband and wife families, the United Nations and wife's father retirement benefits.

Concerning **Ownership of Assets**, Tables (15) and (16) indicate the very low percentage of ownership for both wife and husband, whereby property ownership consecutively amounts to 8.90% and 2.61%, vehicle ownership amounts to 6.28% and 2.61%, land ownership amounts to 6.28% and 0.52%. 'No property owned' was indicated by 72.27% of wives, and 94.24% of husbands. The meager property ownership by husbands of study sample is attributed to the lack of property rights enjoyed by these husbands, in which case the study sample women were obliged to register property and land in their own name.

As for **Avenues of Monthly Expenditure**, Table (17) shows that 70.68% of the study sample mentioned that expenses were distributed over all alternatives mentioned : education, health care, daily life expenses on food and

clothing, work permit fees, residence permit fees. However the two aspects of expenditure identified as the most important by the study sample were: daily life expenses on food and clothing, and health care expenses.

Regarding the **Feeling of Belongingness** to Mother's or Father's Homeland, Table (18) indicates that the majority of the study sample amounting to 95.81% believed that their children had feelings of belongingness to the mother's homeland – Jordan, while a meager percentage amounting to 4.18% felt their children had feelings of belongingness to the father's homeland . Causes were attributed by the study sample to the following: children were born and raised in this homeland; mother is Jordanian; father is resident in Jordan; father is deceased; father was born in Jordan; feeling comfort and security in Jordan; children's belief that they were Jordanian themselves; children were nurtured on the love of Jordan; children lived and studied in Jordan; because Mother is the one to raise children.

All the aforementioned causes coincide with previous studies in the field, and the remarks made by Dr. Fouad Abdul Mun' em in his comparative study on the Issue of Nationality indicating that "the child's first and earliest inherent connection to the national community is formed through his/her mother, the mother's womb being the first homeland for the child, as the mother is the one taking charge of child rearing during the child's first formative years, in which the emotional growth is formed and feelings of belongingness identified".

As for the **Degree of Experiencing Negative Feelings by Children**, according to the study sample perception, such as: Feeling of non-belongingness; feeling of estrangement; feeling of instability; feeling of inferiority; feeling of rejection by society; feeling of anger; feeling of deprivation;

Table (19) indicates lower feelings of non-belongingness by 43.45% of the study sample which coincides with results of Table (18) which revealed that 95.8% of the study sample offspring had feelings of belongingness to their mother's homeland – Jordan; Table (19) also indicated lower feelings of estrangement amounting to 41.87% felt by the study sample offspring as envisaged by the study sample. This clearly highlights the positive correlation existing between low feeling of non-belongingness and 'low feelings of estrangement'.

'Feelings of Deprivation' among study sample offspring received the first highest percentage of responses among other negative feelings amounting to 46.59%, which coincides with the results of Descriptive List (6) as to causes of the daily suffering of offspring being: deprivation of needed food and clothing, deprivation of education opportunities and healthcare, deprivation of work in government posts, treatment in government hospitals, decent housing, travel outside the country (for lack of official documents), and deprivation of all services rendered to other Jordanian citizens.

'Feeling of Rejection from Society' received the second highest percentage from study sample amounting to 43.97%. Followed by 'feeling of non-stability' (42.4%), 'feeling of anger' (39.26%), 'feeling of inferiority' (37.17%).

It is generally concluded from Table (19) that the offspring of Jordanian women married to non Jordanians suffer in various degrees from all the negative feelings specified in the Table which clearly points out to the gravity of the psychological implications of not obtaining the Jordanian Nationality for their offspring. This matter would lessen their suffering, help them to regain their self respect, and preserve their citizenship rights on equal basis with Jordanian offspring born to 'foreign mothers'. Especially with regards to Table (17) results which clearly shows the high feeling of belongingness to the mother's homeland – Jordan amounting to 95.81%.

Regarding the **Fears** haunting the Jordanian mothers married to non-Jordanians, a high percentage of the study sample indicated the fear of having to seek refuge at their families after their marriage amounting to 61.76%, indicating dreading the consequences of seeking their families help, for their past disapproval of the marriage. Also 62.76% of the study sample revealed their 'fear for their husband's sudden departure from the country', or returning to his own country. This notion was widely expressed during focus group discussions and while filling the Questionnaire forms. One newly married young woman who has a one-year-old daughter, expressed the following feelings:" I continuously fear from severing of relations between Jordan and my husband's country, and having to leave my country with my husband, something I find hard to bear". A high percentage of 72.2% of the study sample expressed their 'fear for the exposure of their children to kidnapping'.

An overall high percentage of study sample amounting to 93.07% revealed experiencing an overwhelming ‘guilt feeling’ towards the Future of their offspring, at all levels: always, mostly, sometimes, rarely. 75.91% of the study sample responded ‘Always’, as compared to 8.37% who responded ‘Never’.

The above results coincide with the findings of the Zein Al Sharaf Institute study of 2003 which revealed that many women in their study sample experienced feelings of guilt and helplessness regarding the critical and non stable situation they put their children in.

Results also coincide with those of the Regional study, 2004 with regards to the similarities of feelings shared by Arab women from 8 Arab countries relevant to “Experiencing ‘Guilt Feelings’ for destroying the future of their own children by marrying men from different nationality to their own”.

*On the other hand, Table (22) revealed that 65.96% of the study sample expressed their belief that depriving their children of obtaining the Jordanian nationality is a form of **discrimination and violence against women and children** altogether.* This is in congruence with the stipulations of both the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), with respect to the right of the child of acquiring a nationality since his birth, and the right of a woman to confer her nationality upon her children. Both of these conventions have been ratified by Jordan and published in the Official Gazette, the first on 16/10/2006, and the second on 26/7/ 2007, which makes them legally binding and an integral part of the Jordanian legislature, hence both could be used in court cases.⁽³³⁾

With regards to **Expecting the Ensuing Future Problems Facing the Family**, Table (25) indicates that 83.24% of the study sample have not expected any of the future problems encountered, which coincides with the results of the Regional study 2004 revealing that most women in their study sample from 8 Arab countries have not expected or predicted any of the problems resulting from marrying a non-national.

This clearly points out to the issue of ‘Awareness-Raising’ on part of governmental and non-governmental organizations alike, women’s rights organizations, and the Media.

As for the **Coping Strategies** the study sample reverted to; Table (26) indicates that 45.54% of the study sample have reverted to a number of solutions to ameliorate their children’s suffering; while 54.45% of the study sample indicated not seeking any solutions.

Regarding the **Nature of Solutions** that the study sample tried seeking were:

Requesting intervention of ‘Wasta’, i.e. reverting to favouritism for obtaining the Jordanian Nationality, Seeking assistance of Voluntary Societies, Seeking help from Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and Grievances Bureau, Seeking help from Passport Department and Civil Affairs Department, Presenting Petitions to the Royal Hashemite Court, Seeking Exemptions from work permit fees and residence fees, and Trying to leave the country for a European country which gives children their nationality rights and all other rights.

As for the **Possibility of Obtaining the Necessary Identification Documents** for their Husbands and Children to facilitate their living conditions, Table (27) indicates the weak and very weak possibility according to the study sample opinions, of obtaining the Family Book (48.16%); the ID (48.16%); Jordanian passport (43.45%); Residence permit (45.02%); work permit (42.39%); Travel Permit (47.59%); Driving License (42.92%); Bank Account (39.78%); University Registration (44.82%).

The tendency of the study sample of leaning towards the scant possibility of obtaining all aforementioned official documents points out to the extent of hopelessness, despair and frustration felt by the study sample. However the table points out to the belief that using favouritism would increase the possibility to a certain extent (between 31.41% and 47.12%). This points out to the trend of using ‘WASTA’ in Jordanian society.

6. SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the Results of Field Study on the “Economic, Social, Political and Psychological Implications on Jordanian Women Married to Non-Jordanians and their Families”, and in view of preserving the constitutional and human rights of Jordanian women and their children and ending their suffering due to depriving them from obtaining residence and work permits, equal opportunities of education and healthcare, and based on the suggestions recommended by the study sample, the researcher has come to the following suggestions and recommendations hoping that the concerned Government authorities will view them with serious consideration.

General Recommendation in line with the Constitutional Rights of Women

- Amend the Jordanian Nationality Law to stipulate the ‘Right of a Jordanian Woman to confer her nationality upon her husband and children’; on equal basis as applied onto the Foreign wife of a Jordanian man, as per Article 8, Chapter 2 of the Nationality Law, stipulating the right of the Arab husband to acquire the Jordanian nationality after 3 years of residence, while the foreign husband should acquire the same right after 5 years of residence. Thus entailing the withdrawal of the reservation to Article 9 of CEDAW which stipulates the right of the woman to transfer her nationality to her own children in line with this amendment.

Urgent Procedural Recommendation

- Amend the Residence and Foreigners Affairs Law to stipulate ‘Issuance of a 5-year Residence Permit’ for Husbands and Children of Jordanian women; on equal preferential basis as applied onto the Foreign wives of Jordanian men.
- Issue a ‘National Number’ to children of Jordanian women, as a special procedure regardless of their obtaining the Jordanian Nationality, to ensure their opportunities of enrollment in government educational institutes, health care services, and attainment of work permits on equal basis to other Jordanians.
- Grant the right to Nationality for children of Jordanian mother in case of death of their father, rendering their mother to become head of family and the sole provider.
- Form a ‘Permanent Higher Committee on Nationality Issues’ , to look into urgent Humanitarian cases that need immediate action of granting nationality, with due consideration of the economic, social and psychological difficulties faced by the family.
- Give immediate attention to the cases of ‘Stateless Children’ and take the necessary procedures in this regard due to the gravity of humanitarian consequences of this issue on children and the state obligation for their protection as per the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Administrative Recommendation

- Call upon all relevant institutions to ‘Issue all Marriage Contracts’ containing a category stating ‘Husband Nationality’ in view of facilitating research and the process of decision-making. Suggested institutions include: Civil Affairs Department; Supreme Judge Department; Department of Statistics; and Council of Churches.

7. ENDNOTES

- 1 This justification coincides with ZENID, 2003 study as to the rarity of cases in the Southern Governorates of Jordan – Maan, Karak, Tafileh and Aqaba, page 35.
- 2 Anud Abbassi, Equality without Reservations, 2009, Arab Women Organization of Jordan.
- 3 National Centre of Human Rights, 5th. Annual Report. Paragraphs 42-44.
- 4 Statistics of Ministry of Interior Statistics, 2009, stated in the 5th Annual Report 2009, National Centre of Human Rights, page 33, paragraph 43.
- 5 National Centre of Human Rights, 2009, paragraph 4.
- 6 Al Rai Newspaper, Issue 12327, page 3, 21/6/2003.
- 7 Al Ghad Newspaper, Issue No 116, 24/11/2004.
- 8 Lamis Nasser, Affirmative Policy Measures and Initiatives to Promote the Implementation of CEDAW in Jordan, November 1996, page 41.
- 9 Anud Abbassi, page 8.
- 10 Amal Haddadin, MIZAN – Law Group for Human Rights, pages 5-9.
- 11 Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development, the Arab Women Nationality Rights – Case of Jordan, 2003, page 52.
- 12 Amal Haddadin, page 12.
- 13 Ibid, page 13.
- 14 Anud Abbassi, pages 5-6.
- 15 Regional Study, Denial of Nationality: the Case of Arab Women, CRTD, 2004, Page 3.
- 16 5th. Periodic Report on CEDAW Implementation in Jordan, Jordanian National Commission for Women, Paragraph 75, page 30.
- 17 Oral Statement of Jordanian NGOs presented to the CEDAW committee, New York, 30/7/2007, recounted in Anud Abbassi, page 7.
- 18 Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development, 2003.
- 19 Regional Study, CRTD.
- 20 Ibid, page 3.
- 21 Ibid, page 21.
- 22 Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development, page 18.
- 23 Regional Study, CRTD, page 22.
- 24 Ibid, page 26.
- 25 Ibid, page 25.
- 26 Ibid, page 26.
- 27 Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, Nationality Rights and Equal Opportunities , Comparative Survey, 2004.
- 28 Regional Study, CRTD, page 14.
- 29 Zein Al Sharaf Institute of Development, page 30.
- 30 Ibid, page 33.
- 31 Anud Abbassi, Arab Women Organization of Jordan, Page 14.
- 32 Ibid, pages 12-14, Table of Marriage Contracts for 2004 showing number of marriages between Jordanian women and non-Jordanian men from 65 nationalities, including 16 Arab nationalities.
- 33 Jordan ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 9/4/1991; and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women on 1/7/1992.
- 34 Anud Abbassi, Arab Women Organization of Jordan, Timeline of Efforts to Amend Nationality Law, pages 7-8.

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9. ANNEXES

Annex (1): Study Questionnaire

Annex (2): Efforts to Amend Jordanian Nationality Law - Chronological Timeline

Annex (3): Descriptive Study Lists

Annex (1)

Study Questionnaire

In the name of God the Benevolent and the Merciful

Dear Sister

This field study aims at identifying the economic, social, political and psychological implications on the families of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians.

We hope for your cooperation in responding to the questions in this questionnaire, assuring you that the information will be dealt with in complete discretion and secrecy and will be used for research purposes solely.

Thanking you for your cooperation, valuing your responses and appreciating your suggestions.

Arab Women Organization of Jordan

Name:

Date:

Governorate:

City:

FIELD STUDY

Economic, Social, Political and Psychological Implications on Jordanian Women married to Non-Jordanians and Their Families

Firstly: Basic Data

1. Age

- a. 18 to less than 25.
- b. 25 to less than 30
- c. 30 to less than 35
- d. 35 to less than 40
- e. 40 to less than 45
- f. 45 to less than 50
- g. 50 and above

2. Educational Level

- a. Below secondary level
- b. Secondary level
- c. Community College Diploma
- d. B.A.
- e. M.A.
- f. Ph. D
- g. Other.....

3. Marital Status

- a. Married
- b. Divorced
- c. Widowed
- d. Abandoned

4. Nationality of Spouse

- a. Arab countries, specify.....
- b. Islamic countries, specify
- c. Other countries, specify.....

5. Employment Status of Wife

- a. Not Employed
- b. Employed
- c. Area of Work

6. Employment Status of Husband

- a. Public Sector officer
- b. Specialized profession
- c. Businessman / Trade
- d. Technical work
- e. Agriculture
- f. Other, specify.....

7. Number and Ages of Children

- a. Males
- b. Females

8. Children's Nationality

- a. Jordanian
- b. Non-Jordanian.
- c. Specify.....

Secondly: Housing Environment**9. Place of Residence**

- a. City
- b. Village
- c. Camp
- d. Badia

Specify Governorate

10. Kind of Housing

- a. Separate House
- b. Flat in a building
- c. Villa
- d. Other

11. Residence Ownership

- a. Family owned
- b. Rented
- c. Owned by Relatives
- d. Live with my family
- e. Live with Husband's family

12. Permanent Place of Residence

- a. Mother's Homeland
- b. Father's Homeland

Mention Why?

Thirdly: Income Sources, Expenditure and Ownership**13. Family Monthly Income in Jordanian Dinar**

- a. Less than 150
- b. 151 - 250
- c. 251 - 350
- d. 351 - 450
- e. 451 - 550
- f. 550 - 650
- g. 651 - 800
- h. 801 - 950
- i. 1000 and above
- j. Other

14. The Family Income is:

- a. Sufficient for Necessary Needs
- b. Not sufficient for Necessary Needs
- c. Sufficient for Necessities and secondary needs/luxuries
- d. More than sufficient

15. Sources of Family Income

- a. Monthly salary for Husband
- b. Monthly salary for Wife
- c. Retirement salary
- d. Rent revenues
- e. a and b
- f. Other sources

16. Assets owned by Wife

- a. Property
- b. Vehicles
- c. Land
- d. Other
- e. Non Existent

17. Assets owned by Husband

- a. Property
- b. Vehicles
- c. Land
- d. Other
- e. Non Existent

18. Major Aspects of Family Monthly Expenditure

- a. School/ University Education
- b. Health Care / Doctors
- c. Daily Living / Food and Clothing
- d. Resident Permit Fees
- e. Work Permit Fees
- f. All of the Above
- g. Other

If answer is 'all of the above', Specify the major three aspects:

.....
.....
.....

Fourthly: Psychological Implications**19. According to your personal belief do your children feel they belong to your homeland Jordan or to their father's?**

- a. Mother's Homeland
- b. Father's Homeland

In your opinion, what's the reason for this choice?

.....
.....
.....

20. Mention the 3 major causes of suffering for your children:

.....
.....
.....

21. What is the degree of intensity of each of the following emotions for your children?

(Place an X mark under the degree that describes the situation)

Very High / High / Medium / Low / Very Low

- a. Feeling of Non-Belongingness
- b. Feeling of Estrangement
- c. Feeling of Non-Stability
- d. Feeling of Inferiority
- e. Feeling of Rejection from the Community
- f. Feeling of Anger
- g. Feeling of Deprivation

22. Are you haunted by Fears of having to seek refuge at your family having stood against the marriage in the past?

- a. Always
- b. Mostly
- c. Sometimes
- d. Rarely
- e. Never

23. Fears of your husband's sudden departure from the country

- a. Always
- b. Most of the Time
- c. Sometimes
- d. Rarely
- e. Never

24. Do you fear the fact that your children are exposed to kidnapping

- a. Always
- b. Mostly
- c. Sometimes
- d. Rarely
- e. Never

25. Do you generally experience 'Guilt' feelings regarding the future of your children?

- a. Always
- b. Mostly
- c. Sometimes
- d. Rarely
- e. Never

26. Other Fears not mentioned above:

1.
2.
3.

27. Do you consider 'Depriving' your children from your Jordanian Nationality a form of Discrimination and Violence against women and children?

- a. Discrimination against women
- b. Violence against women
- c. Discrimination against children
- d. Violence against children
- e. a and b
- f. b and d
- g. All of the above

Fifthly: Coping Strategies and Seeking Solutions

28. What was the first problem you faced after Marriage considered as a first Alarm?

.....
.....
.....

29. Did you expect any of the ensuing problems you and your children faced?

- a. Yes
- b. No

List some of these problems

.....
.....
.....

30. What are your suggestions for ameliorating the suffering of your family?

.....
.....
.....

31. Have you reverted to some solutions in the past to ameliorate the suffering of your children?

- a. Yes
- b. No

List some of these solutions

.....
.....
.....

32. In your opinion, What's the degree of possibility that your husband and/or adult children will obtain any of the following Documents:

(Place the mark X under the suitable answer)

Weak / Very Weak / Not Possible / Possible with Wasta

- a. Family Book
- b. Identification Card
- c. Passport
- d. Residence Permit
- e. Work Permit
- f. Travel Permit
- g. Visa
- h. Driving License
- i. Bank Account
- j. Registration at University

We Appreciate Your Cooperation.

ANNEX (2)

Efforts to Amend the Jordanian Nationality Law Chronological Time Line

The following is a simple timeline summarizing the different efforts and attempts made to amend the Jordanian Nationality Law:⁽³⁴⁾

1996 – An official Cabinet decision assigns the Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW) with the task of defining gender discriminatory policies and legislation and designing programs on the national level to carry out the needed amendments.

1998 – The JNCW addresses a letter to the Prime Minister requesting some amendments in the Nationality Law, namely allowing the Jordanian woman to keep her nationality if married to a non-Jordanian, and allowing for some exceptions based on humanitarian cases to allow the Jordanian woman to give her nationality to her children.

2001 – Due to political turmoil surrounding the second ‘Intifada’, the events of 9/11, and the continuous threat of war in Iraq, the King dissolved the parliament and postponed the elections that normally take place in November every fourth year. The government takes advantage of Article 94 Section 1 of the Jordanian Constitution that allows the Cabinet of Ministers with the approval of the King to issue provisional laws covering urgent matters.

2002 – Her Majesty Queen Rania announces during the opening ceremony of the Second Arab Women’s Summit held in Amman that the Jordanian Government is examining the possibility of amending articles in the Citizenship Law to grant Jordanian women the right to pass on their citizenship to their children. This announcement caused an uproar in the country and was followed by a Cabinet amendment to the Queen’s declaration made by then Minister of Information Mohammed Adwan, who affirmed that: "There will be no automatic right of naturalization, we will study each application on a case-by-case basis on humanitarian considerations."

2003 – The reconvened parliament rejects article 10 of the interim Passports Act, “In humanitarian or special cases, the Minister, with the consent of the Prime Minister, may issue a regular passport for a period of five years, renewable for a further five years, but that passport shall not entitle its holder to Jordanian nationality, and the Minister may withdraw it at any time.”

2004 – The Minister of State, who is the government’s official spokesperson, asserted that Jordan was studying three scenarios for the amendment of the nationality code allowing Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians to grant citizenship to their children, those are:

1. The right for Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians to grant citizenship to their children, except for Jordanian women married to Palestinians, in line with the amendment introduced by Egypt at the time.
2. Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians are entitled to grant citizenship to their children, except for the nationalities for which the Council of Ministers decides otherwise.
3. The children of Jordanian men are Jordanian, wherever they were born and the children of Jordanian women are Jordanian, wherever they were born.

2006 – A delegation headed by then Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Mr Muhyiddine Touq presented the combined third and fourth periodic reports (covering the years 1997-2005) to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. One delegate stated that “Jordan had no plans to lift any reservations; if the Government decided to lift the reservation, it must bring that issue to Parliament, which would open a “Pandora’s Box” - a discussion of the Convention in its entirety - which was something the Government wanted to avoid.”

ANNEX (3)

Descriptive Study Lists

List (1)

Areas of Work of Study Sample

Mafraq	Madaba	Zarka	Amman	Jerash
House Servant	Engineer at the Ministry of Health	Retired	Engineer/Project Management	Cleaner
Teacher	Porter	House Servant	Teacher of Holy Quran Recital	School Mistress
Worker in Clothing Factory	Teacher	Retired from School	Government School Mistress	Retired Teacher
Taylor	Taylor	Investor	Teacher	
Cleaner	Nanny	Volunteer at the Ministry of Health	Lawyer	
Farm Worker	Hair Dresser		Herbal Centre Worker	
Employee at the Ministry of Education			Hairdresser	
Retired from the Ministry of Health	Manager at the Ministry of Health		Garden Landscaping	
			Labourer	

* Relevant to Question 5

List (2)

Areas of Work of Husbands

Mafraq	MADABA	Zarka	Amman	Irbed	Jerash
Building skilled supervisor	Daily Labourer	Labourer	Maintenance worker	Labourer	Daily Worker
Sweets skilled labourer	Bakery worker	Men Barber	House Maintenance	Laboratory worker	
Men Barber	Labourer	Driver	Church Volunteer	Stall Salesman	
Sheep Trader	Construction Supervisor	Building site worker	Artist	Taylor	
Construction worker	Vegetable Salesman	Mill worker	Carpenter	Sanitary Vehicle worker	
Clothing Salesman	Plumber	Retired	Restaurant Worker	Vegetable Salesmen	
Labourer	Furniture Painting	Retired Government School Teacher	Worker in Insurance Company	Restaurant Salesman	
Shepherd	Worker in a Rest house	Sweets Shop worker	Sweets shop worker	Loading/ Unloading	
Daily Labourer	Farm Worker	Sweets shop worker	Employee in Ladies Hairdressing Salon		
Construction Labourer	Sweets Shop Worker	Bus workshop	Guard		
	Taylor		Engineer		
	Clothes Ironing worker				
	Farm Labourer				
	Construction Labourer				
	Building site worker				
	Cafeteria worker				
	Restaurant worker				
	Loading/unloading worker				
	Guard				
	Leather dying worker				
	Factory Taylor				
	Daily worker				

* Relevant to Question 6

List (3)

Reasons for Selecting Mother's Homeland for Permanent Residence
Father is Deceased
No Valid Identity Document with Father
Husband's Passport expired since 1991
Mother holds Jordanian ID and Passport
Mother and Father are Separated
Husband Ran Away
No other Alternative other than Jordan
No Passport to allow departure
Disagreement of Family on living outside Jordan
Absence of Husband since 2002
Work circumstances of Husband
Family feels safer in Mother's Homeland
Life in Father's Homeland is Difficult
Husband is an Investor in Jordan
Security situation in father's Homeland is not stable
No existing 'Lam Shamel' documentation for re-uniting families
Husband is a Refugee
Mother's Homeland is more progressed
Political and Economic situation of father's Homeland is not stable
Difficult situation in father's Homeland
Difficult economic situation in father's Homeland
Non-stability in father's Homeland

* Relevant to Question 12

List (4)

Other Monthly Income Sources for the Family

Mafraq	Madaba	Zarka	Amman	Salt	Irbed	Jerash
Working in Construction	Transfer of Money from the Family	Free Kinds of work	Aid from the United Nations	Retirement wages of Wife's Father	Daily Errands	Benevolent Aid
Various Free Businesses	Daily wages	House Rent	Free lance work		Daily wages	From Jordan Aid
Material Upholstery	Carpentry work	Assistance from the wife's family	Trading		Agriculture	Daily Work
Daily kinds of work	Social Development Aid		UN Wages			
Outside Aid	Sewing		Daily works			
Women Societies	Weekly Chores		Revenues from Ladies Salon			
Social Development Wage			Assistance from the family			
Sewing works			Daily wages			
Assistance from Husband and Wife Families			Nursing			

* Relevant to Question 15

List (5)

Reasons for Children's Feeling of Belongingness to Mother's Homeland
Children were born in this country
Mother is Jordanian
Father resides in Jordan
Children were Born and Raised in Jordan
Children's Father was born in Jordan
Feeling Comfortable and Secure in Mother's Country
Feeling Comfort and Security Near Relatives and Family
Growing up to think they were Jordanians
Children have lived all their life and studied in Jordan
Because the Mother is the one who raises the children
Because children were brought up to love Jordan
Because the Grandfathers served Jordan
Because children's Grandfather served in the Jordanian Army

* Relevant to Question 19

List (6)

Causes of Daily Suffering of Children
Refusal of Rendering Services as other Jordanian Citizens
Non Acceptance by other fellow Jordanian citizens at any cost
Non Respect for their Existence as Jordanian Human Beings
Difference in Nationality
No Free provision of educational and health care services
Difficulty of provision of food and drink
Feeling of non Stability
Difficulty of securing a Government job
Being criticized and 'picked on' by others
Non ability to travel to their own country for lack of any personal identification
Lack of Suitable Housing
Deprivation of receiving free school textbooks as other children
Non ability to refer to Government hospital for treatment
Feeling their lower status compared to other Jordanians
Not being able to travel to any other country
Scarcity of Food and Clothing
Feeling Insulted

* Relevant to Question 20

List (7)

Fears that Haunt Jordanian Mothers Married to Non-Jordanians
Non-ability of Children to enroll in Jordanian Universities for lack of Jordanian Nationality
Lack of ability to work in a Government post in the Jordanian state
Sudden Departure from country for Family reasons without the wife's knowledge
Lack possibility of obtaining Jordanian Nationality
Lack of Employment Opportunities
Lack of Education Opportunities
Sudden Departure of Husband as a result of obstacles of living in Jordan
The difficulty of securing Residence Permit for Husband and the high fees of Permit
Difficulty of finding jobs for Husband and Children

* Relevant to Question 26

List (8)

First Problem Facing Mothers After Marriage which was an Alarm
Refusal of Admission in Government Hospitals for Delivering my 1 st . child
Feeling of non-Stability in my own Country
Refusal of Children to continue their education caused by lack of hope in the future
Non ability of Husband of ownership in the country or possibility of starting a Business
Difficulty of obtaining work permit
Abandonment by Husband
Difficulty of obtaining residence permit
Deprivation of my children from all rights
Desertion by Husband
Refusal of Employment for children in Government posts
Playing Role of Mother and Father in the same time
Feeling of non-stability because Husband was of different religion
Chronic illness of son with kidney failure
Threats to children because they are not Jordanian
Exposure of Husband to beating and insults from people
Husband sudden Departure from country
Husband's sudden death
Lack of Family Book including children's names
Husband continuous travel from one country to another
Threatening wife to expose her through the Internet
Beating of wife by husband
Insults and foul language used against the family

* Relevant to Question 28

List (9)

Major Unexpected Problems Faced by Mother and Children after Marriage
Husband being banned from work in any Governmental Institution
Lack of Health Insurance
Lack of ID s for Children
Non Ability of children to continue Education
Scarcity of working opportunities
Difficulty in Providing Daily Needs
No admission for Children in Government Hospitals
Problems of Health and Education
Problems of Issuing Permits
Non-Inclusion of children in Family Book
Requiring father's valid work permit for admission of children to schools
No assets registered in fathers name for lack of nationality
Rejection of children by society
Complications of official procedures
Issuance of official decisions stipulating high rates of fees/ fines

* Relevant to Question 30

List (10)

Suggestions to Ameliorate Suffering
Granting Husband a Jordanian Identification (ID)
Give due consideration to lack of awareness of families in the past regarding implications
Granting Jordanian Nationality to Husband and Children
Provision of Temporary ID for Husband and Children
Considering children's belongingness to their mother's homeland Jordan
Facilitating procedures of granting Jordanian nationality
Allow provision of Government posts to Husbands
Granting Children the Right to Enroll in Government Schools
Granting Children the right to Health Insurance
Cancellation of Issuance of Work Permit; or lowering permit fees
Equal Treatment for Jordanian women's Husbands and Children as Jordanian Citizens
Non-Discrimination among Jordanian Citizens
Ensuring better treatment from Security authorities for men married to Jordanian women
Granting National Number for Husbands and Children of Jordanian Women
Granting Medical Treatment Card for Children
Facilitating Enrolment at University for children of Jordanian Women

* Relevant to Question 31

List (11)

Solutions Reverted to for Ameliorating Children's Suffering
Seeking 'WASTA' i.e. Favouritism to obtain Jordanian Nationality
Seeking assistance of Voluntary Societies
Seeking help from Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and Grievances Bureau
Reverting to Developing Children's Skills to contribute to Jordan Development
Seeking help of Benevolent People
Seeking help of Labour Bureaux for Exemption from issuance of permits and granting of nationality
Seeking Exemptions
Seeking Jobs in Palestine
Presenting Petitions to the Royal Court
Attempts to leave the country for Europe which grant children nationality rights and other rights
Seeking help from Passport Department
Seeking help from Civil Affairs Department

* Relevant to Question 32