

The Impact of a Weak Constitutional Review of Executive Actions in Implementing Women Rights in Saudi Arabia

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Abstract : This paper provides a literature review of the sources of women's rights under the Saudi legal framework, taking account of the constitutional primacy of Sharia under the Saudi legal system as well as the state's obligations under international law. Building on one of the central aims of the paper, it conducts an exploration of how Saudi Arabia already has or might be further able to more clearly delineate its position and reservations in the adoptions of international human rights agreements while preserving its core religious beliefs and societal practices in regard to women's rights at the domestic level. In this regard, the paper will consider the apparent tension between certain jurisprudential and customary aspects on gender equality and contemporary discourses of women's rights from within and outside the Muslim world. Particular attention will be devoted to the question of the causes behind the lack of direct application of women's rights mentioned by international reports and any challenges this may bring in the contexts of Saudi Arabia's evolving gender equality policies.

Keywords : Islamic Constitution, executive actions, gender equality, judicial review

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