

Israel 53 Out Of 115 For Gender Equality

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Israel ranked 53rd out of 115 countries surveyed in the 2009 Gender Equality in Property Rights index, which was published by the Jerusalem Institute for Market Studies (JIMS) Tuesday, using data from the OECD Gender, Institutions and Development database.

The study, which includes five components measuring women's access to land, credit, property other than land, inheritance practice and social rights, found that women in Israel do not benefit from equal rights.

For inheritance practice and social rights Israeli women scored relatively high marks, but the ranking was lowered by results in the other three components.

According to a JIMS press release, gender equality is generally higher in developed countries.

JIMS cited Central Bureau of Statistics data which showed that 16.7 percent of men in Israel were self-employed, compared to only 6.7% of Israeli women. Were women's property rights equal with men's, the statement noted, women would have more self-employment opportunities, which would benefit the Israeli economy as a whole.

The group also quoted empirical studies which showed that gender equality and female empowerment were "strong determinants in reducing poverty and stimulating growth."

This year's index placed Finland in the top rank, and Chad at the bottom of the list. Israel came in behind most of Europe and North America, and even behind Turkey which ranked 49th.

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