



# GALLERY PACK

### TEACHER'S NOTE

For Lesson 1, at least one copy of this pack should be printed out and the pages displayed around the classroom.

Amnesty International recommends that these materials are used with students aged 14+.

Teachers should note that the information includes reference to sexual harassment and to the sexual assault of female protesters by government forces. Please display the following information in case students wish to access support or advice about any of these issues.

### ORGANISATIONS PROVIDING ADVICE AND SUPPORT

#### WOMEN'S AID

[www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)

Tel: 0808 2000 247 Freephone from a landline 24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline

Email: [helpline@womensaid.org.uk](mailto:helpline@womensaid.org.uk)

Post: Women's Aid Federation of England, Head Office, PO BOX 391 Bristol, BS99 7WS

#### CHILDLINE

[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

Tel: 0800 1111 Free 24-hour helpline

#### NSPCC

Female genital mutilation helplines:

Tel: 0800 028 3550 Free 24-hour helpline

Email: [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk)

#### FORCED MARRIAGE UNIT

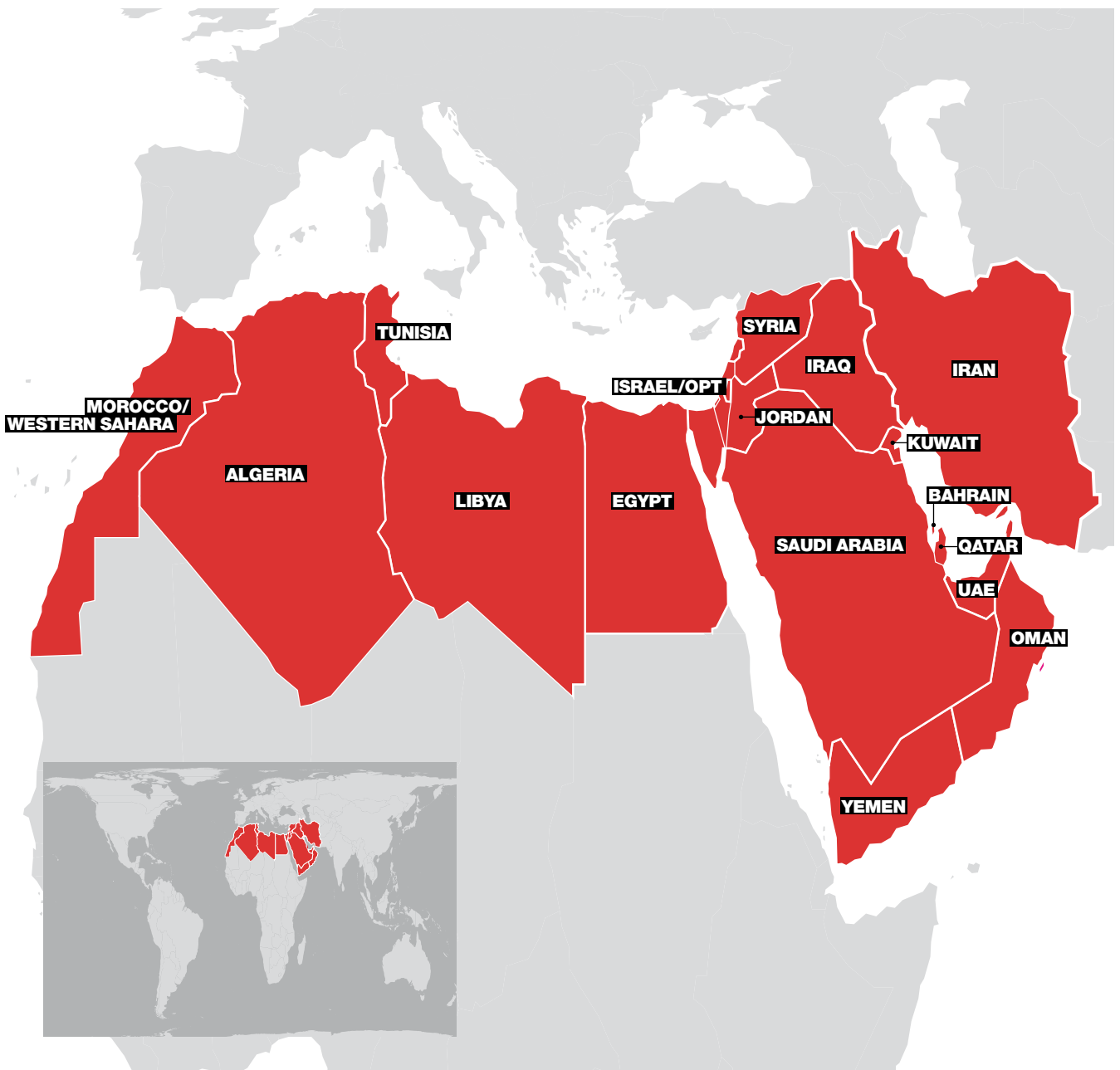
Confidential help and advice or if you know of or are being forced into a marriage:

[www.gov.uk/forced-marriage](http://www.gov.uk/forced-marriage)

Tel: 020 7008 0151



# THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA





# DEMANDING CHANGE IN EGYPT



Protesters fill Tahrir Square in Cairo, February 2011 © AP

In 2011, the people of Egypt protested for democracy and change, overthrowing the government that had ruled Egypt for 30 years.

There were many other revolutions in the Middle East and North Africa in that year, for example in Tunisia.

After the government of Egypt was overthrown, the military were initially in charge of the country. In 2012 elections were held and a man called Mohammed Morsi was declared President.

But the protests continued because many people in Egypt did not think a true democracy had been achieved. Many also disagreed with the actions of the ruling party.

In July 2013 mass protests removed Morsi from power. After that, the country waited for new elections to decide the next leader.



# BACKGROUND

## REVOLUTIONS OF 2011



Demonstrations in Cairo, 2011 © Ramy Raouf

In 2011 the people of Egypt had been inspired by a recent successful revolution in Tunisia, another North African country.

In Tunisia, people demonstrated to protest about high unemployment, rising food prices, corruption, a lack of freedom of speech and poor living conditions.

The Tunisian demonstrators overthrew the Tunisian President, who had been in power for 23 years. The people of Egypt wanted to do the same and overthrow President Mubarak.

Many other countries in North Africa and the Middle East had uprisings and revolutions in 2011, including Libya and Yemen



## A SLOGAN OF THE UPRISING

This was chanted by Egyptian protesters during the uprising of January and February 2011:

**Bread**

**Freedom**

**Social justice**



# WOMEN PROTESTERS



**A female protester in a hijab is dragged and violently beaten by army soldiers on 17 December 2011 © Reuters**

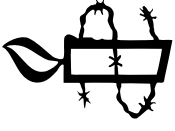
In Egypt, the women who protested for their rights alongside men have faced a crushing disappointment since the revolution.

In the first protests of 2011 many women felt safe to protest alongside men and many said they were treated as equals.

But afterwards women protesters were repeatedly violently attacked and abused by government forces and groups of civilian men. For example, this female protester is being dragged and beaten with her clothes torn off her.

Many Egyptian women and men have taken to the streets to protest about this treatment, but the attacks on women have continued.

Many women feel this is an attempt to intimidate them and force them to stay at home and not protest.



# DEMANDING CHANGE TIMELINE

	<b>25/1/11</b>	<b>11/2/11</b>	<b>24/6/12</b>	<b>22/11/12</b>	<b>3/7/13</b>
What happened?	Mass protests began in Egypt	President Mubarak resigned	Mohammed Morsi was declared President of Egypt	Mass protests resumed in Egypt	Morsi was removed from power
Why?	People wanted a change of government	Protesters had shown Mubarak that he was no longer able to rule over Egypt	This was the result of the election	Protesters were unhappy with the new government run by Morsi	Protesters had created huge unrest and Morsi no longer had control of the army



# THE FLAG OF EGYPT

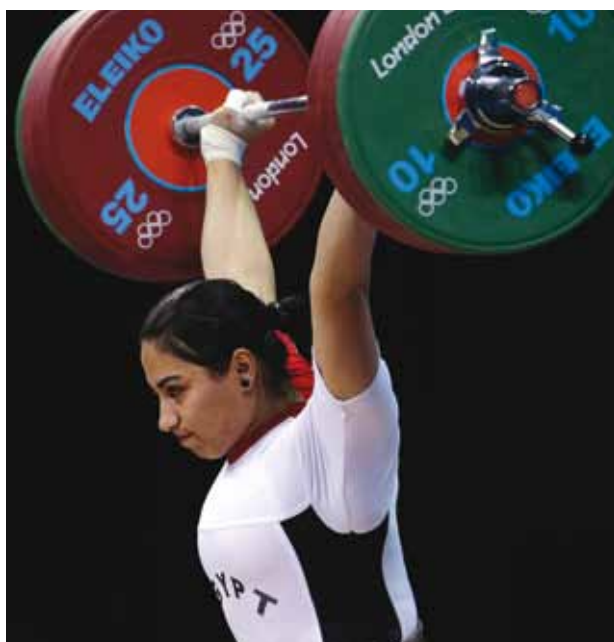


The symbol in the middle is called the Eagle of Saladin.





# EGYPTIAN CULTURE SPORT



Egyptian competitors at the 2012 summer Olympics © AP

Football is a very popular sport in Egypt – top teams are El Ahly and El Zamalek, and many people also follow the Premier League in Britain.

Other popular sports are basketball, squash and tennis.



# POPULATION OF EGYPT



Egypt has a population of over 84 million people. This is over 20 million more people than live in the UK.

About half of the population live in cities such as Cairo and Alexandria.

Egypt had some of the first cities in the world and invented one of the first writing systems in the world (above).



# DAILY LIFE



Shoppers walk past a street stall in Cairo © AP



Girls dance during a festival in Cairo © AP



A family goes for a walk by the Nile © AP



Students in the classroom in Alexandria © AP



# WOMEN'S RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD

Simply being born female in the world today can mean automatic disadvantage. In many parts of the world women and girls are still fighting for the most basic rights of control over their own lives. Women in many countries face discrimination and violence at the hands of the state, the community and the family.

Around the world, women are:

- **Missing** More than 100 million women are missing from the world's population – a result of discrimination against women and girls, including female infanticide.
- **Illiterate** Two thirds of the 774 million adult illiterates worldwide are women – the same proportion for the past 20 years and across most regions.
- **Forced into marriage** More than 60 million girls worldwide are forced into marriage before the age of 18.
- **Dying in pregnancy and childbirth** Each year 358,000 women die from pregnancy and childbirth-related causes.



# WOMEN EXCLUDED FROM POLITICS IN EGYPT



Women make their views known, Cairo, 2011 © Al/Andrea Bodekull

Women played a key role during the 18 days of protest that led to the former president Hosni Mubarak's downfall in Egypt.

Young and old, veiled and unveiled, educated and illiterate, they stood up and chanted for change. Many abandoned the way they had previously led their lives, and overturned deeply ingrained attitudes surrounding 'appropriate' behaviour for women.

However, when discussions on change and reform in Egypt began, they were overlooked. The Morsi government did not respond to the demands to protect female protesters and after Morsi was forced out of power in July 2013, women are still struggling to be heard.

Information from Amnesty International



# SEXUAL HARASSMENT



Egyptian women harassed in the street in Cairo © AP

Sexual harassment is bullying or coercion of a sexual nature and it can include physical threats, verbal comments and inappropriate physical contact. It can happen to men and women. In the UK there are laws to protect people from sexual harassment.

## Sexual harassment in Egypt

- Experienced by 98% of foreign women visitors
- Experienced by 83% of Egyptian women
- 62% of Egyptian men admitted harassing women
- 53% of Egyptian men blame women for 'bringing it on'

Source: Egyptian Centre for Women's Rights



# EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES DO NOTHING TO PROTECT FEMALE PROTESTERS



Women march on the streets of Cairo © AP

In June and July of 2013, millions of protesters took to Egypt's streets. Many women and girls were sexually assaulted by mobs in and around Cairo's Tahrir Square.

The authorities did nothing but other activists and volunteers tried to rescue women from attacks, even though many people were themselves attacked as they tried to defend women.

Assaults often involved tens or even hundreds of men surrounding their victims, tearing off clothes and veils and using weapons.

Amnesty International has established that 170 attacks were reported between 30 June and 3 July, including attacks against elderly women and girls as young as seven.

This is not the first time this has happened: sexual assaults have also been reported in protests in November 2012 and January 2013. The authorities have failed to take action to find justice for the women who lodged complaints about these assaults. A prosecutor described such a case as 'not a priority'.

Information from Amnesty International



## AZZA HILAL SULEIMAN



Azza Hilal Suleiman is fighting for justice after Egyptian army soldiers attacked her.

Azza had her skull fractured by soldiers in December 2011, leaving her in a coma for days. She now campaigns for justice for those injured and killed by Egypt's security forces during and since the uprising.

Aged 49 and from Heliopolis in Cairo, Azza became known internationally as the 'red-hooded woman' from a video that went viral on the Internet.

The footage showed her desperately trying to protect another woman whose underwear was exposed as soldiers dragged and beat her during a protest near Cairo's Cabinet Offices on 17 December 2011. Azza Hilal Ahmad Suleiman too was then mercilessly beaten by soldiers.

She is now seeking justice for survivors of state violence.





# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



**Amina Agami is a survivor of domestic violence. She broke free and for the past 10 years she has been campaigning to protect women in Egypt from violence in the home.**

As in other countries, domestic violence is prevalent in Egypt. Currently, under Egyptian law, domestic violence is not criminalised; it is dealt with as an 'assault'. Rape within marriage is not criminalised by the Penal Code. The UN has criticised the Egyptian authorities' response to domestic violence, noting the inadequacy, insufficiency and lack of co-ordination in social support services, as well as the lack of shelters for women.