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Women Representation in Parliament 2020

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Women Representation in Parliament 2020 increased by 30% than it was

In the context of following up the electoral observatory of The Egyptian Alliance for Human Rights and Development, the observatory has been interested in analyzing women’s participation in parliament elections especially as women’s representation ratio in the parliament has become 15% in 2016 which was then represented the highest representation ratio of women ever in the Egyptian Parliament since they got the right to nomination for elections in 1957. Then the Egyptian women got 25% of representation in the parliament according to the new constitutional amendments in 2019.

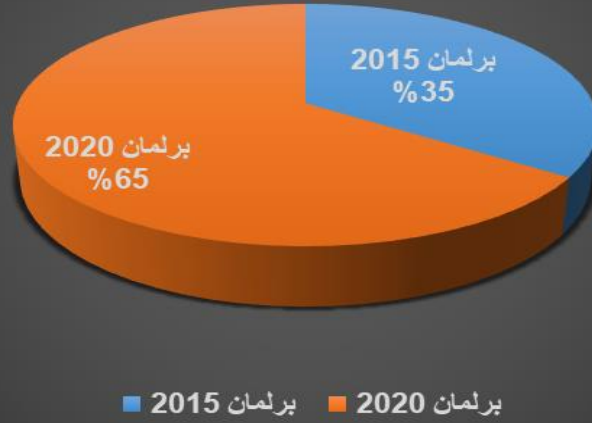
In parliamentary elections of 2015, 308 women ran for and compete for parliament membership for individual and lists seats as the laws of parliamentary elections have dedicated 56 seats for women with the list system and that at least 7 women would be nominated in lists for which 15 seats have been designated.

According to the constitutional amendments in 2019, the minimum representation of women in parliament is quarter of the total members with a minimum of 149 women parliamentarians. The following review reveals that there are many factors which may contribute to affect women’s representation ratios inside parliament the most important of which is the nature of electoral system as dedicating seats for women has contributed to increase women representation. In addition, the closed list system has contributed to increase women’s representation ratio. But the important question is that did all of these affect the awareness of both parties and voters to vote for women even if they nominate for individual seats? Depending on the closed list system does not contribute as required to enhancing the efficiency of women as a strong competitor who has capacities to run for elections. Moreover, this system does not encourage parties to nominate women except within the minimum limit stated by law especially within the status of fragmentation of parties and absence of strong party gathering which increases women’s representation inside parliament in addition to consideration what women have acquires as sufficient and more as illustrated by the following numbers:

Comparing women candidates # between parliament 2015 and 2020	
Parliament 2015	Parliament 2020
308	581

Figure 1: Comparing Women Candidates # in parliament of 2015 to parliament of 2020

مقارنة عدد المرشحات بين برلمان 2015 و 2020

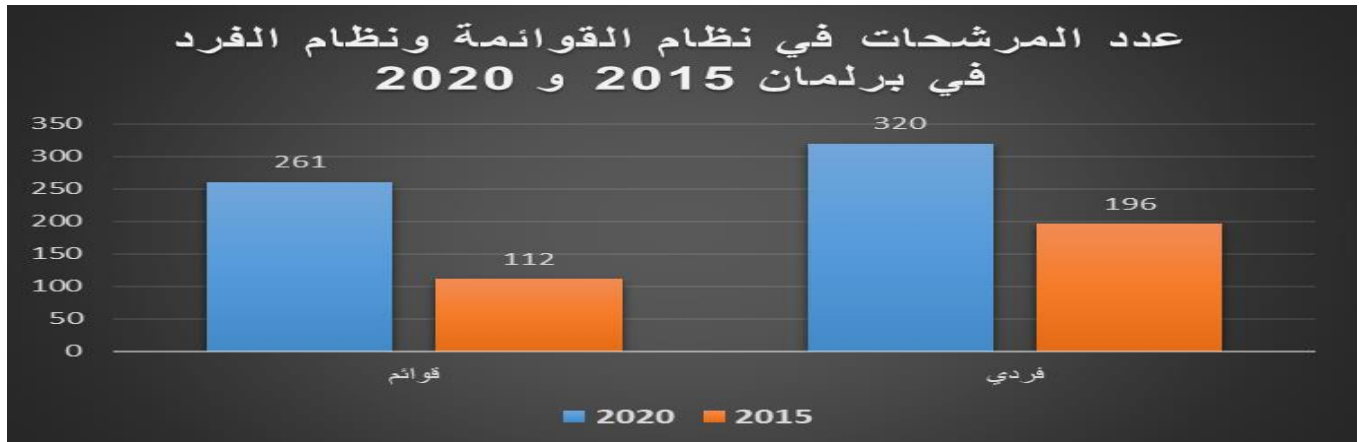


The table shows an increase of the number of women candidates in parliament of 2020 as compared to the parliament of 2015 by 30% of the total number of women candidates.

The following table shows the ratio of women candidates in lists and individual systems in elections of 2015 compared to elections of 2020:

Women Candidates #	2020	2015
Lists	261	112
Individual	320	196

Figure 2: number of women candidates in lists and individual system in parliament of 2015 and 2020



The following table illustrates weak party representation of women in parliament elections of 2020 as it compares partisan women candidates to independent women candidates as follows:

<i>Comparing partisan women candidates to independent women candidates in individual system</i>	
<i>Partisan</i>	<i>Independent</i>
42	227

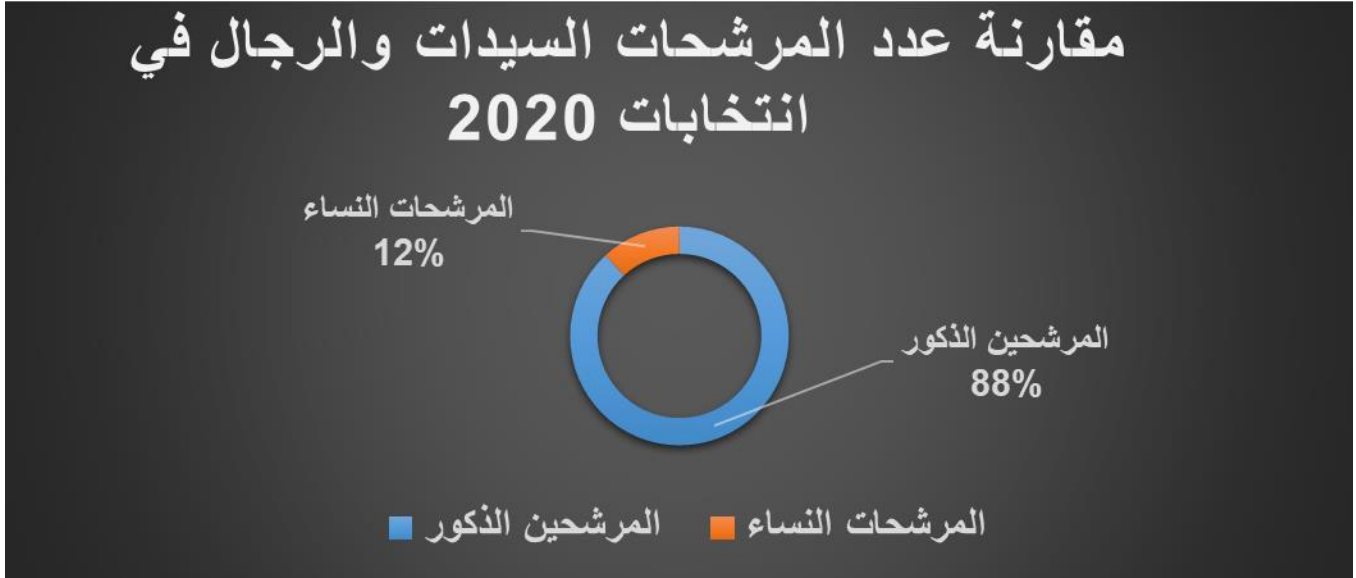
Figure 3: comparing number of partisan women candidates to independent women candidates in individual system



According to electoral tables, women candidates' number in individual system from the total number of candidates in individual system represents very weak ratio as illustrated by the report. This is because parties, female candidates and feminist movement on women Quota in constitution as for women voters number which reaches more than 49% of the total of those who have right to vote as stated by the National Elections Commission.

<i>Comparing number of women candidates to men candidates in elections of 2020 ٢٠٢٠</i>	
<i>Male candidates</i>	<i>Female candidates</i>
4339	581

Figure 4: comparing men candidates number to women candidates number in elections of 2020



Hence, we should work upon strengthening the role of women committees in parties in favor of nominating and electing women through practicing different pressures and organizing seminars to raise awareness of community especially parties so that parties would encourage women to run for elections by preparing women calibers able to compete in the coming elections.