



Gender Follow-up in Tunisia

Ms Rim Belhaj
Engineer, H. Humphrey Alumna
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Civil Rights

Independent Tunisia

Tunisia : August 13, 1956

Habib Bourguiba – Prime Minister then First President

Med Lamine Pacha Bey

First Legal text related to men & women
equality:

Code of Personal Status

Civil law & Chariaa



CPS

1956

Main points:

- the abolition of polygamy;
- both spouses have the right to request divorce;
- setting the minimum age for marriage at 17 years for girls, and providing that the girl must consent to the marriage;
- In case of father's death: the mother keeps her right to look after her children

Education, Labor code & Birth control

- Education is Free and compulsory
- Same wages for men and women for same diploma and work position
- Abortion is legal since independence: a woman is free to decide for her body: no one at hospital (public or private) asks her about
 - her age,
 - if she is married or not
 - the authorization of her husband/parents.
- Tunisia was among first countries to experience contraceptive pills for birth control (subsidized by government since 1960)

CPS

*No move backward in case of women's rights-
August 13, 1992.*

- **the two spouses "must treat each other with kindness and consideration, and assist each other in the management of the household and the affairs of their children." This provision replaces the former clause providing that "the woman must obey her husband";**
- **A mother's consent must be obtained for the wedding contract of a daughter who still a minor;**
- **Married girls who still legal minors have the right to manage their own private life and affairs;**
- **Creation of a fund to guarantee payment of child support and alimony to divorced women and their children**

Further amendments in 2008

- Granting women the right to receive the conjugal residence in case of divorce: if the couple has children of lower age,
- Allowing imprisoned mothers to dispose of an extended room to take care of their young children while being in prison.

Some statistics

- **99% of Tunisian 6-year-old girls are enrolled in schools.**
- **The proportion of girls in secondary schools is 53%.**
- **In higher education, female students make up 59% of the total number of students,**
- **Life expectancy among women: 75.3 years.**
- **Deliveries performed with medical assistance: 90%.**

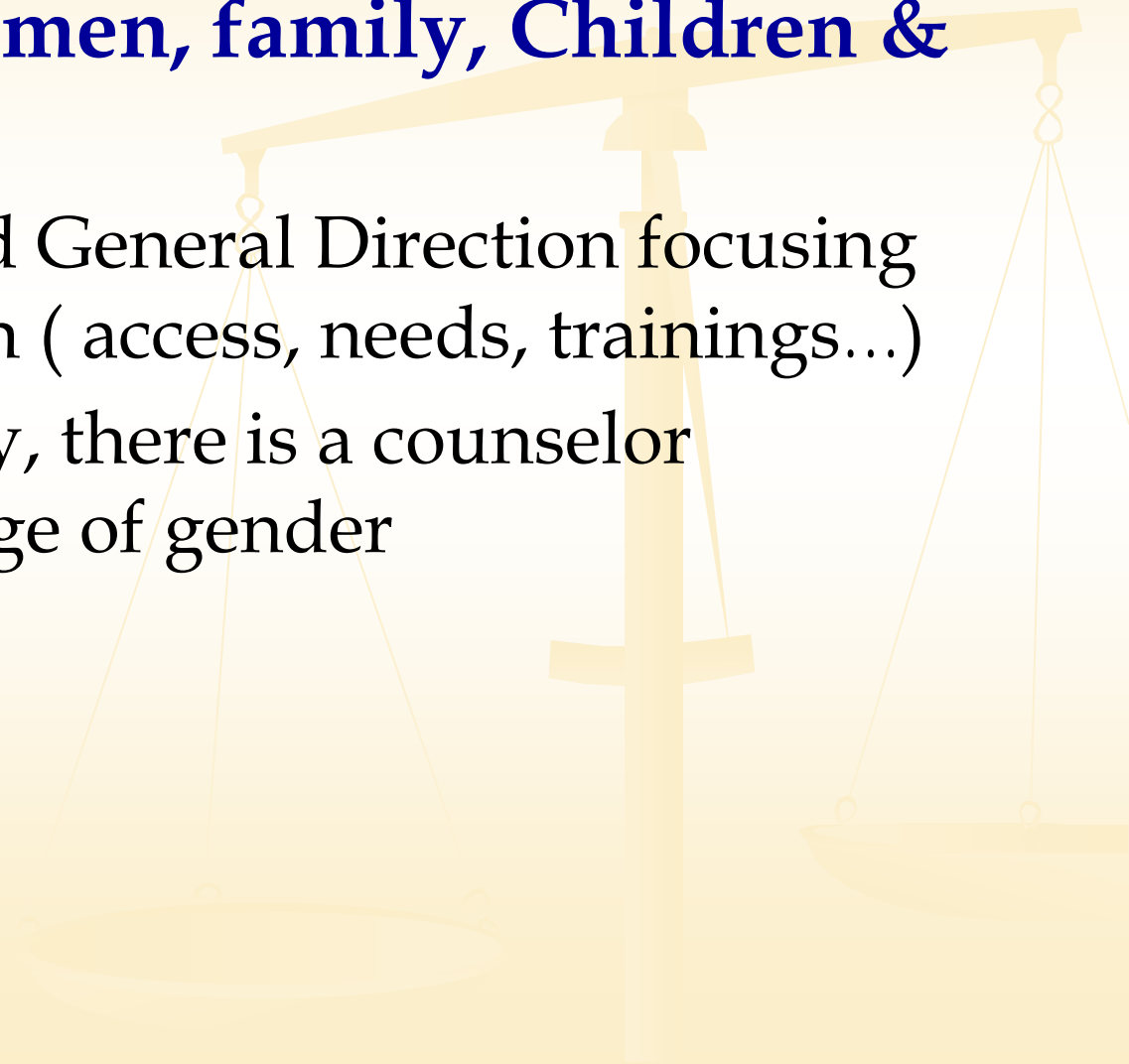




- **34% of judges.**
- **31% of lawyers.**
- **42% of the medical profession.**
- **72% of pharmacists.**
- **34% of journalists**
- **21% of the staff as civil servant**
- **51% of basic education instructors.**
- **48% of secondary education teachers.**
- **40% of university professors.**
- **16.7% in the sector of agriculture and fisheries.**
- **26.4% in die sector of manufacturing industries.**
- **46.9% in the sector of commerce and services.**

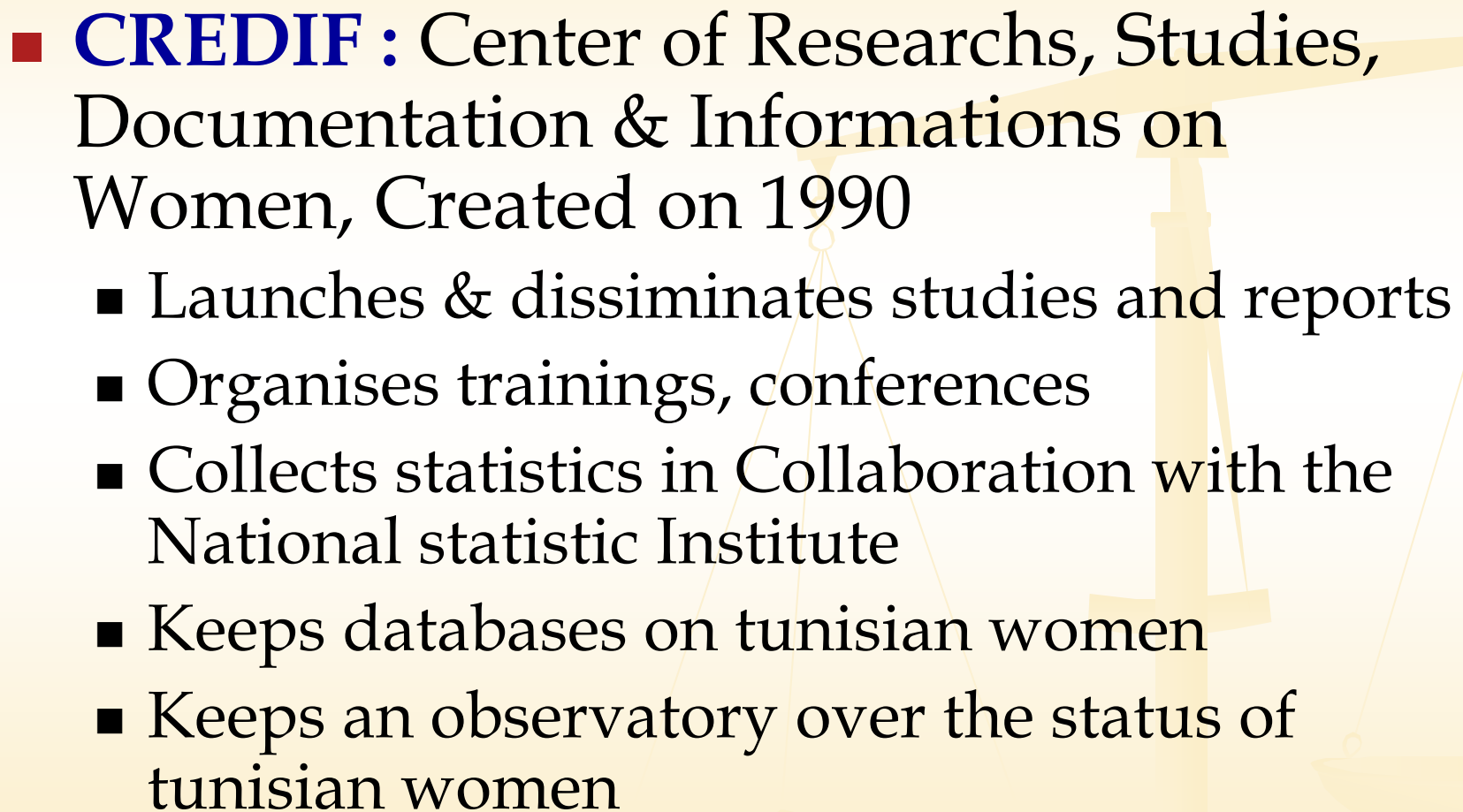
Bodies Monitoring gender

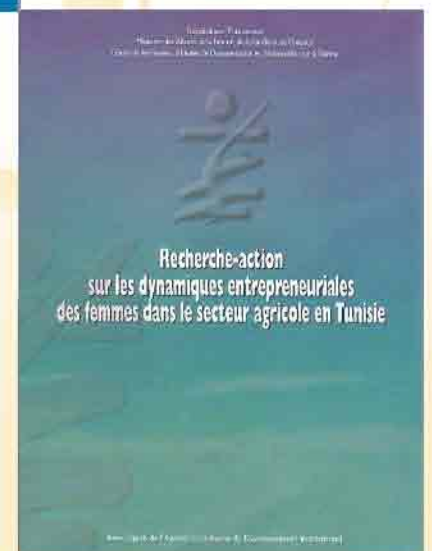
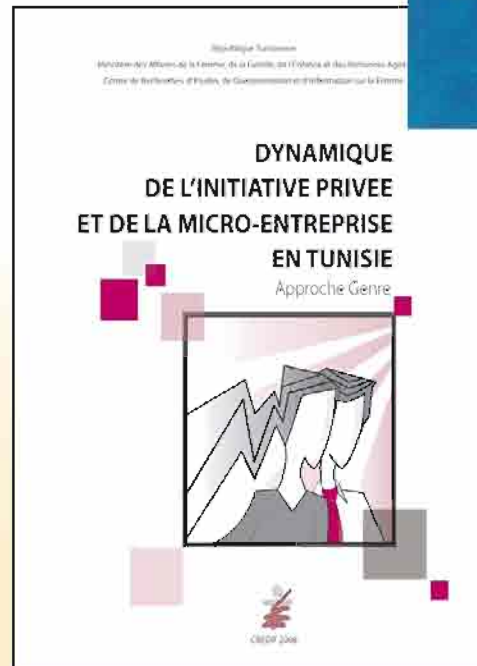
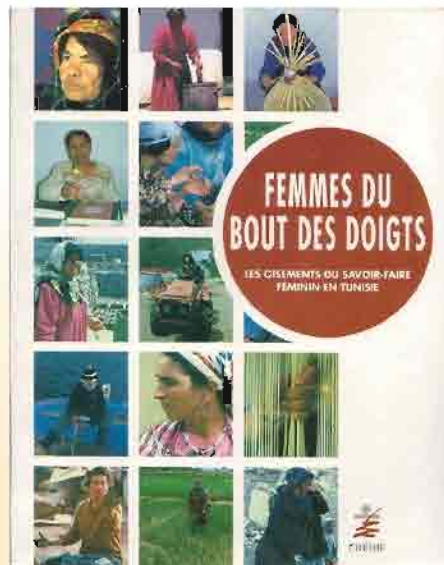
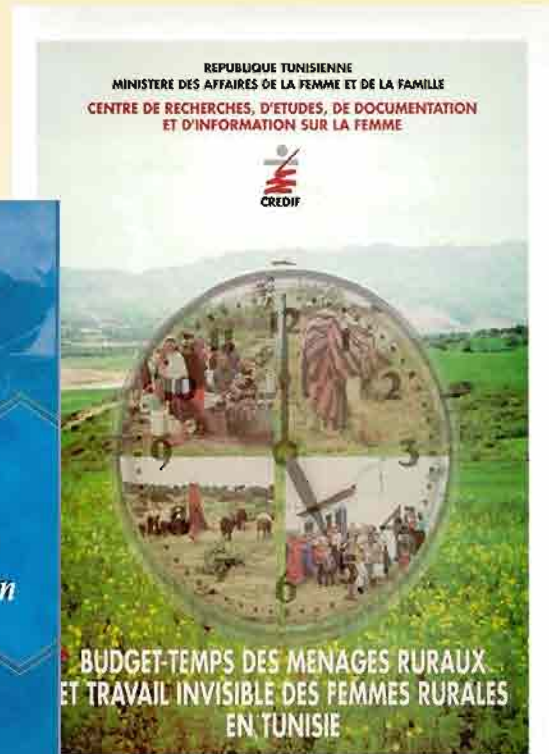
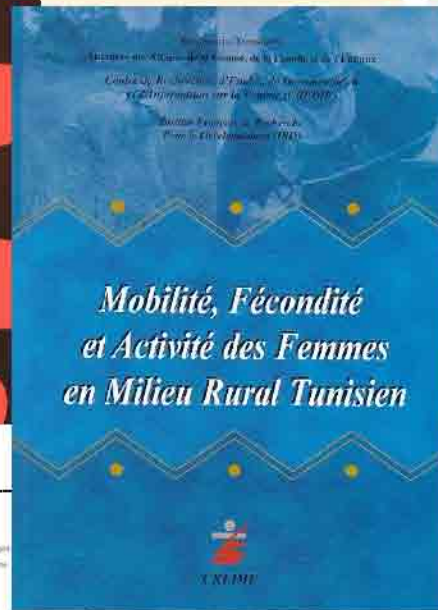
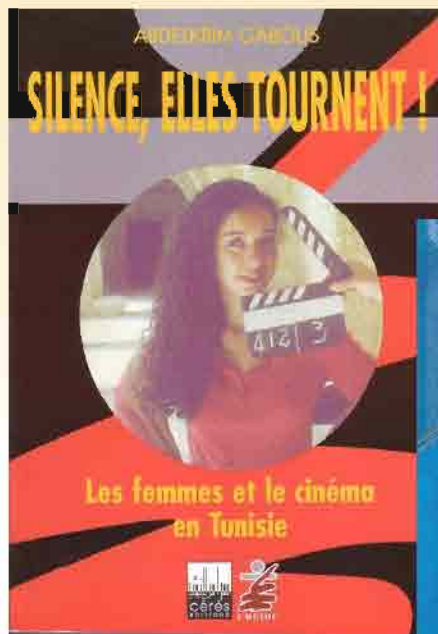
- **Ministry of Women, family, Children & Elderly affairs,**
 - Has a dedicated General Direction focusing on rural women (access, needs, trainings...)
 - In each ministry, there is a counselor position in charge of gender







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- **CREDIF** : Center of Researchs, Studies, Documentation & Informations on Women, Created on 1990
 - Launches & dissiminate studies and reports
 - Organises trainings, conferences
 - Collects statistics in Collaboration with the National statistic Institute
 - Keeps databases on tunisian women
 - Keeps an observatory over the status of tunisian women



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- **National Council for Women, family and elderly,**
 - Chaired by the minister
 - Members : Representatives from ministries, NGOs and some appointed personal nationalities.
 - Discuss strategic orientations & decisions related to women and family
 - Collaborate with governemental bodies & NGOs
 - Civil Society : Women NGO (UNFT, ATM, AFTURD, Femmes Democrates...)



THANKS