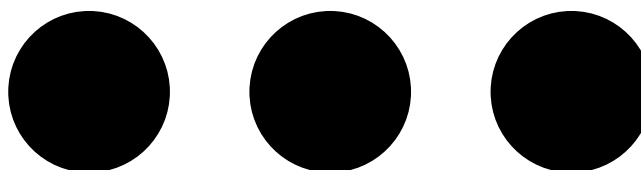




Saudi Arabia on UN's Status of Women Panel

Guess who won a seat on the UN's Commission on the Status of Women? This is the commission dedicated exclusively "to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women." Does the answer leap out at you when you find that the new appointee ranks 141st of the 144 nations rated by the World Economic Forum in its 2016 Global Gender Gap report? OK, quiz over. The answer is [Saudi Arabia](#).



The Saudi Kingdom is so dismissive of the rights of women that it's the only country worldwide where a woman can't drive an automobile. In addition, every woman must have a male guardian who alone can approve her schooling, career, and travel, even to obtain healthcare. Her guardian is typically her father or her husband, but it could even be her underage son.

Only last month, a 24-year-old Saudi woman sought to flee a forced marriage by going to the Philippines in hopes of getting to Australia. She was held and then turned over to two male relatives for the trip back to Saudi Arabia where she will be dealt with. In the recent past, a Saudi princess won asylum in England when a British court granted her immigration status because she had produced a child with a man outside the reach of Saudi detectives. She was very fortunate.

UN Watch Executive Director Hillel Neuer commented, "Electing Saudi Arabia to protect women's rights is like making an arsonist the town fire chief." He called the election "a black day for women's rights and for all human rights." Add to all of this the fact that the vote to welcome the Saudi Kingdom for a seat on this UN panel was done in secrecy. Few know who approved such an appointment. Saudi Arabia will begin its four-year membership on the commission in 2018.

One has to wonder what's going on here. Has the UN lost its collective sanity? Why choose a country so obviously at odds with the stated purpose of the commission?

We don't know the answers to these questions. But consider the [UN's steady growth in power](#) over all nations and all humans. None of this buildup toward world government is affected by the appointment. It may even cause many to dismiss the UN as a major global power that is not to be taken seriously. Critics of the world body's powerful commissions, departments, offices, and missions will easily be led to believe that this appointment of an obvious abuser of women's rights shows how inept the entire UN truly is.

If that's why Saudi Arabia will get a place on this UN Commission, the UN has won by painting itself as a bumbling entity that threatens no one. Meanwhile, UN progress toward its goal of unchallenged rule over all of mankind continues.



Written by [John F. McManus](#) on May 17, 2017

Sensible lovers of freedom in America and elsewhere must continue to call for breaking the UN's tightening grip on the planet. Americans who want the U.S. out of the UN are encouraged to continue spreading the whole truth about the world body. Let the cry to [Get US out!](#) grow louder and reach many more. Let an abuser of women's rights proceed to have a seat on the Women's Rights Commission. But don't anyone forget what else must become more widely known about the United Nations itself. Educational tools telling the whole truth about the UN are available at [shopjbs.org](#) or call 1-800-342-6491.



John F. McManus is president emeritus of [The John Birch Society](#). This column appeared originally at the [insideJBS](#) blog and is reprinted here with permission.



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