

## **Child Guest House Report 2019/2020**

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## Report's preamble

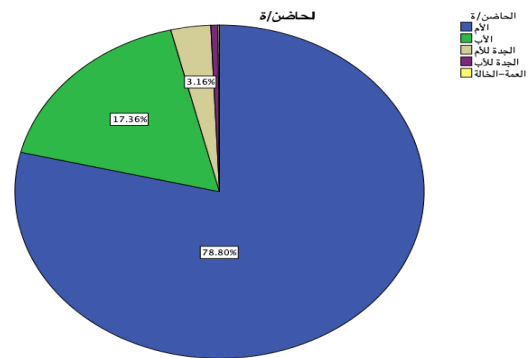
In line with the efforts of the Jordanian Women's Union in highlighting the most important social problems that face women in particular, and the Jordanian society in general, and in order to find solutions, help, empower and raise the awareness of women and the society, so that these problems and their effects are understood and therefore make contributions to change, this report aims to present figures and statistics related to the Child's Guest House program for the years 2019 and 2020. The Child Guest House provides services to visit children in cases of divorce and separation and in the event that there is no agreement between the two parties to visit children in a friendly manner. Although the vast majority of cases are transferred by a court ruling, the Union receives some cases through the Phone Line Program for Legal, Social, and Psychological Guidance. Before the establishment of the Child Guest House in 1997, child's visitations were made in police stations and courts, which had psychological effects on children, deepening conflicts between the two parties, and limiting the relationship between the child and the non-custodial father or mother.

In the Union's initial assessment of the importance of establishing the program, it was obvious that many visitations do not last for a long time in the police stations. This deprives the child and the visiting party of building a relationship and cuts the means of communication between them. The Union's goals did not focus on finding a safe place for children's visitors only, but they also went beyond to work on a parallel program for social reconciliation. Many goals were achieved, and they are summarized as follows: 1) increasing the visitation hours, so that the visiting party can spend more time with the children; 2) turning the visitation into home visitation, as home is the ideal place for communication between parents and children; 3) achieving joint custody for both parties, so that both parties bear equal custody of children and the responsibilities arising therefrom; 4) reducing judicial disputes, and finding a safe place for dialogue and understanding between the two parties; 5) going back to married life if this is in the interest of both parties and there is a desire for them to return to it; 6) rehabilitation women and empowerment them socially and economically and helping her to complete her studies and find a job opportunity; 7) employing the Union's capabilities and expanding its goals through empowering women in various fields; 8) supporting and assisting children who benefit from the House on the psychological, social and educational levels. Since the establishment of the Child's Guest House until the end of 2020, 9428 visitations were registered in the House. The house operates through its main branch in Amman and its branches in eight different regions throughout the Kingdom, mainly: Zarqa, Irbid, Ramtha, Salt, Hittin, Wehdat, Baqa'a, and Madaba.

This report is divided into two parts: the first provides general information about the visiting parties, the state of marriage and separation, the factors and causes of disputes, and the services provided by the Union to the various parties. The second part of the report provides information on women who visit their children and are not custodians, trying to understand the reasons why women waive child custody, and comparing some of their characteristics in an attempt to stop, understand, and analyze the reasons behind this.

### General information about the visiting parties: the custodian and the visitor

The Union registered 887 new visitations during 2019 and 2020. The visitations percentage increased in 2019 by 55.4% compared to 2020, where the percentage of visitations registrations was 44.6%, with a difference of about 10%. Mothers constituted about 79% of the total number of children custodians, followed by the father with 17.4%, the maternal grandmother with 3%, and the father's or mother's sister with 0.1%. This percentage reflects the general status of children's custody, as it is usually for the mother. The percentage of mothers who had the right to visit their children was about 17%, compared to the father who made up 72% of the total number of visitations, and then 8.6% for grandmothers from the father's side.



### Personal information of the mother and the father (the custodian and the visitor)

Mothers between 23 and 27 years old constituted the largest percentage of the total number of mothers with 31.9%, followed by mothers between 28 and 32 years old with a percentage of 29%. It is noted that the number of cases decreases for mothers above 42 years old. This may be directly related to the fact that the percentage of divorce cases decreases for these ages, as will be discussed later in the report. It is also noted that there are cases of mothers who are less than the legal age for marriage (less than

Mother's current age			
Table (2)			
		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	less than 18	2	.2
	18-22	92	10.4
	23-27	282	31.9
	28-32	259	29.3
	33-37	140	15.9
	38-42	70	7.9
	33-47	30	3.4
	48-52	6	.7
	53+	2	.2
	Total	883	100.0

18). Since the cases of early marriage are linked to visiting children, the presence of such cases, even if a small percentage, is an indication that the marriage was at a very early age. On the other hand, fathers between 28-37 years old constituted the vast

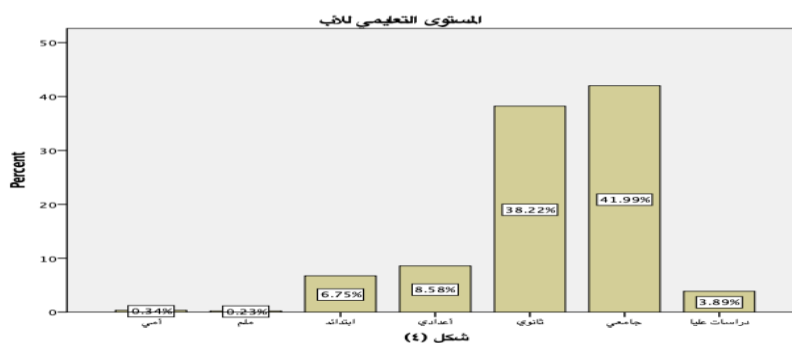
majority of cases with 60% of the total number of fathers, followed by fathers between 38-42 years old with 16%.

With regard to the mother's nationality, the Jordanian nationality constituted 94% of the mothers, 5% of the Arab nationalities, and about 1% of the non-Arab nationalities. The Jordanian nationality of the father constituted about 95.6%, the Arab nationalities of 4.1%, and 0.3% of the foreign nationalities.

Mother's educational level: Secondary education constituted the largest percentage of mothers' educational level, with a percentage of 40%, followed by university education (32%), primary education (16.7%) and elementary education (8%).

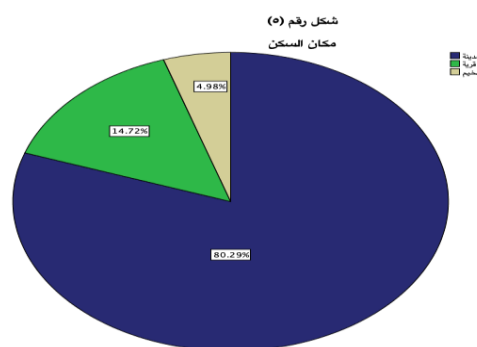
		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Illiterate	2	.2
	knowledgeable	1	.1
	Elementary education	71	8.1
	Primary education	147	16.7
	Secondary education	353	40.1
	University education	273	31.0
	Higher education	34	3.9
	Total	881	100.0

Conversely, it is noticed that fathers with university education constituted the largest proportion of the total cases, with about 42%, followed by fathers with secondary education (38%). The percentages of primary education, higher education, elementary education, and illiteracy were much lower (6.7%, 3.8%, and 0.3%, respectively) as shown in Figure (4).



The number of cases living in cities constituted the vast majority of the visitations in the Union with 80% of the total cases, followed by cases living in villages with 14.7%, and then in Palestinian camps with 5%. These percentages may be related to the population distribution in general, but they clearly indicate that resorting to courts to determine where to visit children is not the first option, specifically in the Palestinian camps. This is due to financial reasons such as the case costs or the existence of family arrangements between the two parties because of the nature of living in the camps so

that communication between the two parties and the ability of the non-custodial party make it easier to visit the children. Clan arrangements and relatives' interference in resolving disputes in villages are sometimes the direct reason for not resorting to the court or making visitations in the Child's Guest House. However, 14% is also a large percentage compared to the geographical distribution, overcrowding in cities, and the general divorce percentage in villages. So, this is an indication that, in many cases, clan arrangements are not able to resolve issues related to divorce and children's visitations.



Work status and employment sector: while working mothers constituted 32.5%, non-working mothers constituted 66.6%. In contrast, working fathers constituted 92% and non-working fathers constituted about 8%. Regarding the employment sector, fathers and mothers working in the private sector constituted the largest percentage, with 70.7% for men and 56% for women. The percentage of women working in the public sector was about 37%, compared to 8% for men working in the public sector. The percentage of freelancing or self-employment was higher for men than for women, with 1.7% of women working for their own account, while about 18% had their own business. This percentage generally reflects the low percentage of women who are freelancers or self-employed.

Mother's Work Status			
Table (6)			
		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Working women	286	32.5
	Non-working women	586	66.6
	Looking for a job	8	.9
	Total	880	100.0

Mother's employment sector			
Table (7)			
		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Public Sector	105	36.7
	Private Sector	161	56.3
	Self-employment	5	1.7
	Military Sector	15	5.2
	Total	286	100.0

Father's employment sector			
Table (8)			
		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Public Sector	67	8.2
	Private Sector	581	70.7
	Self-employment	153	18.6
	Military Sector	21	2.6
	Total	822	100.0

### Information about marriage and divorce:

The figures for the age of marriage presented in Table (9) show that early marriage of girls is still practiced and for ages less than 16 years, as 3.3% of women who visited the Guest House got married under the age of 16, and 15% were between the ages of 16 and 18. Looking at the divorce figures provided by the Department of Statistics, the percentage of divorce for the age group between 15-17 years old (under the legal age) amounted to 659 cases for the year 2018<sup>1</sup>. The Department of Statistics does not provide information on the marriage age for those who are less than 18 years old, but from the available figures about the age group between 15-19 years old, the number of marriages reached 8226 in 2018<sup>2</sup>. The reasons for early marriages, which are still largely practiced, are due to the law gap, which allows judges to contract marriages for people under the legal age if “it has an interest.” This gap is responsible for having not a small percentage of divorce cases and marital disputes if we compare it with the percentage of total marriages in this age.

Mother's first marriage age			
Table (9)			
		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	16-	28	3.2
	16-18	133	15.1
	19-22	278	31.6
	23-26	306	34.8
	27-30	96	10.9
	30+	39	4.4
	Total	880	100.0

If we look at the age of first marriage for males, we also find that early marriages are practiced, but at a lower percentage. So, the percentage of males' marriages under the age of 18 constituted 1.9% of the total number of fathers. Looking at Department of Statistics figures, there were 13 divorce cases for males under the age of 17 in 2018<sup>3</sup>. Having 13 divorce cases for males under 17 years old means that there is a greater number of early marriages for male children under the age of 17 years.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Statistics, 2018, Divorce figures, available at: [http://www.dos.gov.jo/dos\\_home\\_a/main/vitality/Marriage\\_and\\_Divorce/2018/Divorces2.pdf](http://www.dos.gov.jo/dos_home_a/main/vitality/Marriage_and_Divorce/2018/Divorces2.pdf)

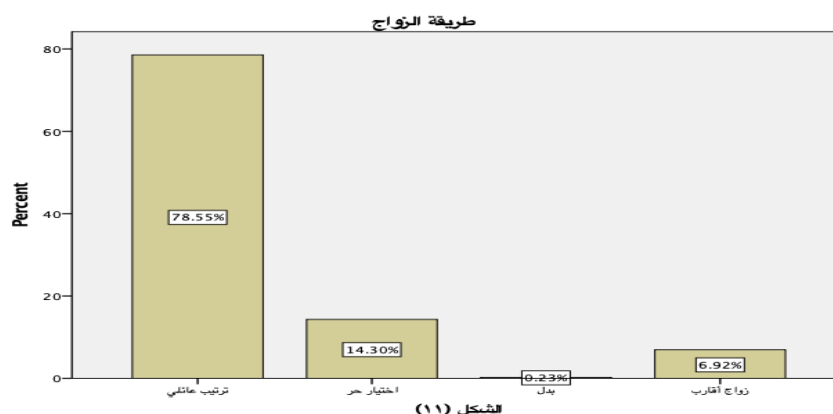
<sup>2</sup> Department of Statistics, 2018, marriage figures, available at: [http://www.dos.gov.jo/dos\\_home\\_a/main/vitality/Marriage\\_and\\_Divorce/2018/Marriages2.pdf](http://www.dos.gov.jo/dos_home_a/main/vitality/Marriage_and_Divorce/2018/Marriages2.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Department of Statistics, 2018, Divorce figures, available at: [http://www.dos.gov.jo/dos\\_home\\_a/main/vitality/Marriage\\_and\\_Divorce/2018/Divorces2.pdf](http://www.dos.gov.jo/dos_home_a/main/vitality/Marriage_and_Divorce/2018/Divorces2.pdf)

Father's first marriage age			
Table (10)			
		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	16-18	17	1.9
	19-22	82	9.4
	23-26	275	31.5
	27-30	315	36.1
	30+	184	21.1
	Total	873	100.0

85.6% of the cases that arrived at the Guest House and became a case of divorce or separation were for marriages that were arranged from the family. This includes cases of exchange marriage (Watta Satta) (0.2%) and relatives' marriages with 7%. Additionally, as Figure (11) shows, marriages that took place on the basis of free choice between spouses constituted a small percentage, compared to family arrangements, with a percentage of 14% of the total number of cases registered in the House. This may be the result of an

understanding between the spouses that is reflects on the communication and agreement on children's affairs, in case of separation or divorce. We cannot generalize that marriages that are made by free choice have lower divorce rates,

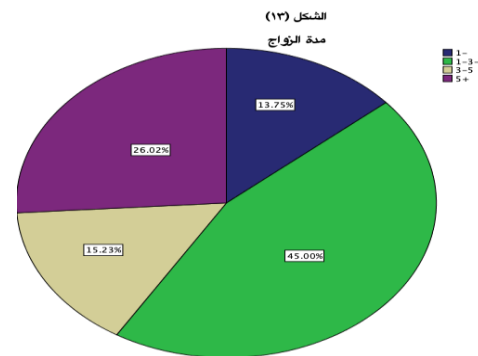


but this gives us an indication that, in the event of divorce, disputes are resolved, especially with regard to visiting children in a friendly and understanding manner, which reduces the negative effects on children and both parties.

Divorce cases constituted the largest number of cases that were registered during the past two years in the Child's Guest House, with 71% of the total cases. Comparatively, separation cases without divorce constituted about 29%. This is due to the fact that issues related to visiting children usually start after divorce, especially if there is no agreement to divorce, as shown in the previous figure.

Separation Status			
Table (12)			
		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Divorce	619	71.1
	Separation	252	28.9
	Total	871	100.0

As Figure (13) shows, the duration of marriage before separation or divorce was the largest in cases of less than 3 years. The duration of marriages for less than one year constituted approximately 14% of cases, and marriages for more than a year and less than three years constituted the largest percentage, with 45% of cases. Accordingly, about 60% of the cases did not exceed the marriage period of three years. It is clear that the cases of divorce and separation decrease after passing the first three years, with about 15% for the category between 3-5 years, and then the percentage increases for the category of more than 5 years, but it remains less than divorce cases with the duration of less than three years of marriage.



### Reasons of separation and divorce: violence against women

As Figure (14) shows, the vast majority of divorce cases were through discord and conflict cases, which constituted about 82% of the registered types of divorce that reached the Child Guest House. On the other hand, the percentage of divorce cases that happen by mutual consent was less by 10% than the cases that reached the Child Guest House. As the table indicates, divorce in absentia constituted 3.4% and arbitrary divorce with 2.7%, while Khul' divorce (the case when the wife does not want her husband anymore) constituted the lowest percentage of cases (2.3%). This is due to the fact that women still do not resort to this type of divorce despite the amendment of the law for more of ten years.

Table (14) also indicates that the cases in which disputes happen over children and in which the arrangements for visitations are not agreed upon are more for the parties

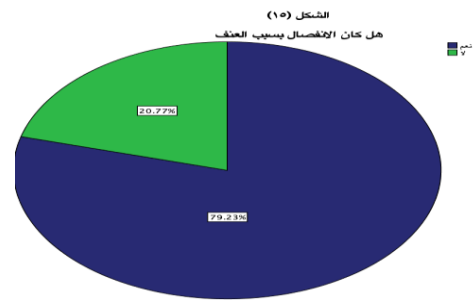
		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Arbitrary divorce	17	2.7
	Discord and conflict	506	81.7
	Khul' divorce	14	2.3
	Divorce by mutual consent	61	9.9
	Divorce in absentia	21	3.4
	Total	619	100.0

who have dispute and conflict issues, which usually take a long time in court, which increases the differences between the parties, and is reflected on the relationship and the communication with children for the non-custodial party.

Regarding the reasons of separation and divorce, there is multiple reasons that lead to separation and divorce. 73% of the registered cases mentioned that there is more than one reason for divorce to occur, but it became clear from the registered cases that



violence against the wife was the direct cause of having divorce and separation. 79% of women confirmed that they had experienced violence, and that violence was the main reason for divorce. In contrast, 20.7% of cases were not caused by the main reason of divorce, but by other reasons.



Regarding the types of violence, the figures showed that psychological violence constituted the largest percentage of the total mothers who stated that violence was the direct cause of divorce/separation, with an estimated percentage of 54%, followed by physical violence, with 32.7%. Resources and opportunities deprivation constituted about 10%, and sexual violence 3% of all cases of violence. These numbers go in line with the numbers of the Phone Line Program for Guidance and the international numbers that monitor marital violence, so that psychological violence, including verbal violence, abandonment, threats, and verbal abuse constitute the most types of violence practiced on wives, followed by physical violence and its various forms of beating, pulling hair, and other forms of physical violence.

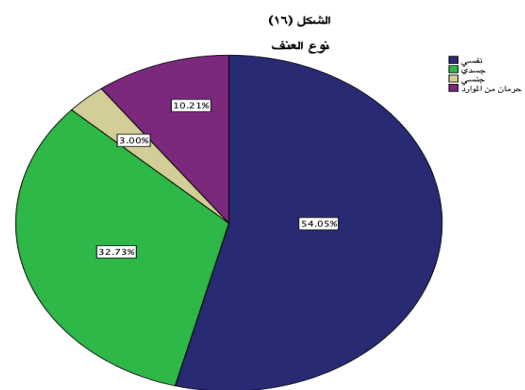


Figure (17) shows that cases in which separation/divorce happened because of violence against the wife, the divorce rates were higher in the first year, 79% of those who divorced in the first year of marriage faced violence compared to 20.7% for other reasons. It is noticed that 81% of divorce and separation cases during the first three years of marriage were due to violence. It is also noticed that the presence of violence was also a direct cause of ending marriages after more than five years. This also indicates that marital violence may be the direct cause of ending marriages before the first year, but it is also a direct cause of divorce in different stages of marriage. In marriages that end in divorce after more than five years, women usually try to resort to many solutions before resorting to divorce, but these solutions usually do not lead to a result, because there are no means to deter the abusers. Hence, it is important to find ways to eliminate violence and to early protect women from violence because of the bad effects on women, the marital relationship, and on children.

Was the separation because of violence? * Duration of Marriage		
Cross tabulation		
Table (17)		
	Duration of Marriage	Total

			1-	1-3	3-5	5+	
Was the separation because of violence	Yes	Count	96	322	105	175	698
		% within the duration of marriage	79.3%	81.3%	78.4%	76.8%	79.4%
		% of Total	10.9%	36.6%	11.9%	19.9%	79.4%
	No	Count	25	74	29	53	181
		% within the duration of marriage	20.7%	18.7%	21.6%	23.2%	20.6%
		% of Total	2.8%	8.4%	3.3%	6.0%	20.6%
Total	Count		121	396	134	228	879
	% within the duration of marriage		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	% of Total		13.8%	45.1%	15.2%	25.9%	100.0%

Regarding the other reasons mentioned by the women, the interference of the parents constituted 38%, the inability to communicate and dialogue constituted 30%, marital infidelity constituted 9%, and material disagreements constituted 7.5%. Other reasons accounted for such as addiction (5%), polygamy (3.5%), shared housing with the husband's family (2.9%) and educational and cultural differences (2.2%). With regard to the interference of the parents, which is considered the most important reason after marital violence, one of the most important factors related to the interference of the parents is the lack of independence of the husband and wife after marriage, so that there remains a kind of authority exercised over one or both parties, which usually leads to deepening differences between the spouses. This is related to the spouses' ability to discuss issues, and having dialogue and understanding skills between them. These skills are not usually linked to education or training only, but to mutual respect between the two parties and having the awareness of the importance of listening and understanding the other's point of view. In general, this is related to a basic dimension, which is awareness and understanding of the role of the two parties as partners and as equal parties. In a society that views women as a secondary party in the marital relationship, and governs the marital relationship with authority and power linked to a patriarchal culture, generating a relationship in which mutual respect, transparency and independence in dealing with disputes take place is a difficult matter to be achieved.

<b>Other reasons for separation/The mother</b>			
<b>Table (18)</b>			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Shared housing	20	2.9
	Addiction	39	5.7
	Infidelity	63	9.2

	Inability to talk and communicate	207	30.3
	Financial dispute	51	7.5
	Educational and cultural difference	15	2.2
	Polygamy	24	3.5
	Interference of the parents	262	38.3
	Inability to talk and communicate	1	.1
	Psychological reasons for the husband	2	.3
	Total	684	100.0

<b>Reasons for separation from the father's point of view</b>			
<b>Table (19)</b>			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Shared housing	7	.8
	Infidelity (the husband)	46	5.3
	Domestic violence from the husband on the wife	5	.55
	Wife violence (abuse and verbal violence)	5	.55
	Inability to talk and communicate	382	43.7
	Financial dispute	41	4.7
	Educational and cultural difference	10	1.1
	Polygamy	13	1.5
	Interference of the parents	364	41.6
	Wife's illness	1	.1
	Total	874	100.0

Considering the reasons from the husband's point of view (Table 19), it is seen that only 0.55% of men (number 5) referred to the violence practiced by them on wives as a direct reason for divorce or separation. This indicates that husbands do not recognize

violence and do not see it as a reason to consider. This is a result of normalization and accepting violence and seeing it as their right to discipline the wife, in addition to the societal misconceptions that violence against the wife is an indication of the manhood and strength of the husband. On the other hand, it is seen that a number of five men stated that they experienced violence from the wife, and this violence was identified as types such as abuse and verbal violence, and no physical violence against the husband was mentioned by the wife. Parental intervention was found to be one of the most important reasons for separation or divorce, and this is a shared point of view of both the husband and the wife, with a rate of 41%. Although husbands usually mention the interference of the wife's family, and in turn the wives mention the interference of the husband's family, this is an indication that the interference of the extended family, whether the wife's family or the husband's family, is one of the main factors in marital disputes. Spouses also agreed, in a large percent, that the factor associated with the inability to dialogue and communication was also a major reason of marital disputes that led to divorce or separation with a percent of 43.7%. In addition, 5% of men stated that infidelity by the husband was the main factor (compared to 9% of wives who considered infidelity as one of the main reasons). Others mentioned material differences, polygamy, educational difference and wife's illness as other reasons for the disputes (4. %, 1.5 %, 1.1 %, 0.1 %, respectively).

With regard to legal disputes between the parties, 54.5% of the cases registered in the House still have ongoing cases and legal disputes in the courts, while 45.5% do not have any cases between them. Regarding the nature of the existing cases, figure (20) shows that child alimony cases are the first among the cases still in dispute, with a percentage of 64% of the registered cases, followed by cases of discord and conflict at a rate of 23.8%, wife's alimony with a percentage of 6%, and criminal cases of violence with a percentage of 5%. In addition, there are three cases, with a percentage of 0.6%, over child custody and one case for visiting the grandmother. The length and complexity of the procedures in the courts usually cause increasing and deepening the disputes and the inability to communicate and dialogue, especially with regard to children, so the Child Guest House, through its male and female workers, tries to reduce the severity of the disputes in the event of having cases in the courts, in order to reach agreements between the parties, as will be explained in the subsequent section of the report. The reason for delaying alimony may be due to putting pressure on the woman to withdraw cases or waive the right of custody, as will be discussed in the second part of the report.

**The nature of the case in the courts**  
**Table (20)**

		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Children's alimony	307	64.2
	Wife's alimony	29	6.1
	Divorce/discord and conflict	114	23.8
	Violence	24	5.0
	<b>Custody</b>	3	.6
	<b>Visiting the grandmother</b>	1	.2
	Total	478	100.0

### Services offered at the Guest House:

As mentioned at the beginning of the report, the services provided by the Union in the Guest House are not limited to visiting children, but also go beyond providing comprehensive and integrated services for the family, including the mother, the father, and the children. As Figure (21) shows, 11.4% of the cases registered in the House received visitations services only. Sometimes this is due to the stability of cases and the absence of the need for intervention. That is, there is an agreement on the visitations and their arrangements. In these cases, the Guest House facilitates the arrangements and follows up on their occurrence. On the other hand, the same figure shows that the vast majority of cases (88.6%) benefit from multiple services in the Union. This is due to the nature and variation of the problems associated with divorce cases, and consequently the need for specialization and professionalism in dealing with cases registered in the House. Within this understanding, the House's staff have specializations related to social and psychological counseling and legal services. The House also benefits from the Union's various programs such as the health clinic, the Phone Line Program Guidance, legal aid, and the women's shelter. It can be coordinated directly with the House in case of any need for any of these services.

<b>The nature of the provided service</b>			
<b>Table (21)</b>			
		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Visitations only	101	11.4
	Visitations and other services	786	88.6
	Total	887	100.0

As Table (22) indicates, 31% of the registered cases had directly benefited from legal services and legal aid. This service is followed by procedures such as drafting regulations (0.4%), making agreements (6%), arranging alimony procedures (6%), and reducing legal disputes between parties through the mentorship program (8.7%). This shows that more than 50% of the registered cases needed intervention in relation to the legal aspects. This is due to the nature of the House and the service provided in it in general, and hosting parties who mainly resorted to the courts to resolve their disputes. These issues often affect and contribute to the state of understanding between the parties, and in many cases the procedures are complicated and take a long time. This increases the conflict and the inability to reach an amicable solution between the parties. Accordingly, the Union works to provide legal information that all parties have

general interest in, so that this has an impact on the relationship of both parties with children. So, the staff tries to alleviate these issues and sometimes reduces the number of these issues so that appropriate conditions are created for having a dialogue between the two parties. Hence, we see that 27% of the registered cases were subjected to family reconciliation programs by male and female specialists in family counseling. This service is determined by having all parties

<b>Other main services provided</b>			
<b>Table (22)</b>			
		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Family reconciliation & guidance	218	27.7
	Legal advice	245	31.2
	Drafting regulations	3	.4
	Agreements	48	6.1
	alimony arrangements	6	.8
	Reducing legal disputes	68	8.7
	Women rehabilitation	198	25.2
	Total	786	100.0

accepting to attend family counseling sessions. In many cases, counseling sessions are preceded by empowerment and rehabilitation programs for women so that they are able to make appropriate decisions for themselves. About 25% of the women who visited the House in cases related to visitations benefited from the empowerment service. Table (22) identifies the direct service, but as the subsequent figures show, there are multiple services provided by the House; therefore, it is important to detail each service to show the nature of the services received for the cases registered in the House.

Looking at the Family Reconciliation Program, it is obvious that the House was able to turn about 56% of the cases that benefited from the Family Reconciliation Program into visitations at home, in addition to 10% that were turned into escorts and sleepovers at homes. Turning cases to homes, whether with an overnight stay or without, is important in terms of strengthening the relationship between children and the visiting party, so that the visitation takes place in its natural place, which would improve the means of communication, reduce the effects of divorce on children, and making their

communication better with other family members such as grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts, and other family members. Turning the visitations into home visitations also reduces the intensity of disputes and making the convergence of views better than making the visitation in a place governed by a specific time and conditions stipulated by a court decision. This was followed by an increase in the number of the visiting hours (19%), which is usually decided by the court by two hours, and this time is generally not enough for the children and the visiting party to communicate and spend time in a way that enables them to strengthen their relationship, especially that many cases that had /are still going through legal disputes that affect the intensity of disagreement and the possibility of dialogue and communication. The staff of the House succeeded in reuniting the children in the case of not having them with the same custodian (0.5%) and they are working to make a joint custody between the two parties for 1.4% of the cases registered in the House.

Family Reconciliation services			
Table (23)			
		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Restoring married life back	54	12.8
	Turning the visitation into a home visitation	235	55.7
	Children's escorts and sleepovers	44	10.4
	Increasing the visiting hours	81	19.2
	Having the children with the same custodian	2	.5
	A joint custody	6	1.4
	Total	422	100.0

As for the restoration of married life, about 13% of the cases that were subjected to the Family Reconciliation Program were restored through the Family Reconciliation Program (Table 23). The marital life of some cases that had reached divorce was restored through a new marriage contract, with a percentage of 11% of the cases in which marital life was restored, and in 88.9% of the cases that were separated, without an official divorce. This procedure, as mentioned previously, depends on the desire of both parties. Work is done independently in advance with the different parties within the Family Reconciliation Program to determine the possibility of restoring the married life and the ability of the two parties to independently make a decision.

Restoration of married life			
Table (24)			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	New marriage contract	6	11.1
	Reconciliation between spouses in case of separation	48	88.9
	Total	54	100.0

It was found that the vast majority of the visiting mothers benefit from support programs and the support offered by the Union, especially psychological support, which constituted 58% of the total services provided, as well as the adaptation to the conditions of separation and divorce (25.5%). The importance of this service is that the effects of divorce on women are different from those of men, as there is still a social stigma for divorced women based on their responsibility to divorce, although the figures show that women generally do not resort to divorce except in cases where there is severe and frequent violence and a difficulty in sustaining the married life.

Within this situation, it is important to provide a safe space for women to talk and to provide them with the necessary support that will enable them to properly continue their lives. The services provided for women exceeded the psychological and social dimensions, as

Support and Empowerment of Women			
(25)			
		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Completing education	18	2.6
	Creating job opportunities and economic empowerment	9	1.3
	Raising capabilities and developing skills / training courses in productive projects	3	.4
	Adapting to the circumstances of separation/divorce	178	25.5
	Psychological empowerment and support	404	58.0
	Education	85	12.2
	Total	697	100.0

they also include encouraging women and helping them complete education (2.6%), creating job opportunities (1.3%), raising professional and training capabilities (0.4%) and general education and training (12%).

As for the services provided to children, most of the services were summarized in neutralizing children from problems and disputes (42%), followed by non-exploitation of children in disputes and placing the interests of children as a first priority (25.7%). This issue is considered one of the complex problems, as families usually resort to inciting children, putting pressure on the other party to give up cases, by depriving them from visiting children or by inciting children not to communicate with the other party. The functional staff in the House gives importance and priority to such behaviors, and it changes them because of their future effects on children, their mental



health, and their interaction with different parties. This type of problem creates many challenges and behavioral problems for children that hinder their growth and development, so the service of adaptation to circumstances and psychological support for children is provided by male and female specialists on an ongoing basis, and they try to achieve and develop the children's capabilities and enable them to deal with the new reality.

<b>Children's services (26)</b>			
		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Psychological services and adaptation to new conditions	149	21.8
	Detecting child abuse	4	.6
	Neutralizing children from family problems	285	41.8
	Achieving and developing communication capabilities with different parties	60	8.8
	Non-exploitation of children in disputes	175	25.7
	Behavioural guidance	7	1.0
	Referring abuse cases to Family Protection and Juvenile Department	2	.3
	Total	682	100.0

### **Geographical distribution of visitations registrations**

The services provided were distributed among the Union's branches in the nine regions. Irbid ranked first in terms of the number of cases registered for the years 2019 and 2020, with a rate of 29.3%, and Amman hosted 27.4% of the cases registered in the House, followed by Zarqa (13.9%) and Wehdat (11.3%). Hittin had the lowest percentage of the cases, which is 0.3%. The rest of the cases were distributed in Baqa'a (7.6%), Ramtha (5.3%), Madaba (3.3%), and Salt (1.7%).

<b>The branch / Table (27)</b>			
		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Amman	243	27.4
	Irbid	260	29.3
	Zarqa	123	13.9
	Al-Baqa'a	67	7.6
	Ramtha	47	5.3
	Madaba	29	3.3
	Hittin	3	.3
	Wehdat	100	11.3
	Salt	15	1.7
	Total	887	100.0

### **Conclusion**

The report showed that many of the factors contributing to divorce or disputes over children are directly related to the dimensions and gaps in the law and practices in the courts. As indicated in the report, the marriage of under-age girls and those under 16 years of age is still practiced and approved by the judicial judges and various judicial court departments. Because the article regarding the legal age of marriage allows the continuation of these practices, it is necessary to work on amending the law, so that there is no reason to contract the marriage before the legal age. The figures presented in this report must be taken seriously, as about 30% of these marriages end before the first year (of the total category of less than 18 years), and approximately 65% of these marriages end between the first and third years of marriage. If we look at the numbers of divorce cases before the first year, considering women who gave birth or became pregnant before the divorce, the percentage may be greater if the cases of divorce before childbirth in the first year of marriage for girls who have not reached the age of 18 are added to it. It is also necessary to look at the effects of divorce on girls who have not exceeded the age of 18 and have become mothers and divorcees, and the consequences for their future in general and their educational and practical capabilities, in addition to the social stigma they will face in relation to their divorce, so that instead of the country or society bearing such a mistake, women are considered responsible for the divorce, which is a responsibility they were not partners in it, but rather victims.

Another important issue highlighted by the numbers was the direct link between divorce and violence against women. As the report indicated, the majority of women stated that the direct cause of divorce was violence in its various types, such as psychological, physical, sexual, and deprivation of resources and opportunities. As the report also indicated, psychological violence in its various types, including verbal abuse, curses, insults, among others, constituted the largest percentage. The percentage of physical violence, including beatings using sharp tools that may lead to permanent injuries and disabilities, or murder, also constituted a large percentage. Divorce may be the only way in which a woman can get rid of violence and protect herself, as the government does not take any means of protection and prevention from violence. In addition, the Domestic (family) Violence Law still fails to protect women from spousal violence, as it does not explicitly provide a definition of violence, and therefore does not specify the types and forms of violence. It also does not specify procedures for implementation or stipulate penalties. Although Jordan was one of the first countries to establish a domestic violence law in the region, it is lagging behind many countries in implementing the law. The use of the article related to violence in the Personal Status Law is still little, and there are different practices to implement it, and therefore it is insufficient to protect the right of women to divorce in the event of violence.

The third issue, which is important to shed light on, is the lack of communication between spouses and the inability to make dialogues. These are the most important reasons mentioned by both parties for the reasons of divorce. This problem is generally related to educating children and encouraging them to make dialogues and express themselves, whether at home or school, so that dialogue and respecting others are the behaviors followed to deal with others, as an integral part of shaping themselves. This also helps to achieve emotional and psychological stability, which creates a generation capable of thinking and dealing in civilized ways far from violence or resorting to methods that would degrade the other as a means of finding oneself. Intervention in this factor needs systematic and practical plans at various levels, which would increase the awareness of parents and teachers of the importance of developing self-awareness through methods of dialogue and discussion. It is noticed that the other factor mentioned as the main reason is the interference of the parents is directly related to the factor of dialogue and communication, so that the authority of parents and their understanding of their relationship with sons and daughters goes beyond the childhood stage until the stage of marriage so that parents consider that they are still responsible for their sons and daughters. In a society that does not produce an independent personality for children, parents generally have an opinion regarding their marital relations.

It is also noted, according to the Family Reconciliation Program that misconceptions about the roles of husband and wife in marriage, which are not based on the principle of partnership, play a major role in disputes and the lack of means of communication and dialogue. In many cases, the husband believes that he has the right to discipline the wife, the right to limit her activities, especially with regard to family visits, work, and education, as well as the right to confiscate the salary of the working wife, and the right to deprive her of her sources of income or to deprive her of the involvement in financial or children-related decisions. There are societal conceptions that support these practices and ideas for husbands; however, women's access to divorce in many cases because of these factors shows that there is a rejection by women of these practices. Therefore, it is necessary to change this cultural heritage, which directly contributes to the increase in the number of divorce cases and marital disputes.

Divorce may be the solution to many disputes and problems between the spouses, but as indicated in the report, the length and complexity of the legal procedures may make things worse between the two parties, and this makes the negative effects of divorce a challenge on the wife and children. This also reduces the possibility of the success of the family reconciliation processes conducted by the Union. The issues of discord and conflict, alimony for the wife, and alimony for children are among the issues that take a long time in many cases, and the length and complexity of the cases constitute

financial pressure on wives, who in many cases do not work and therefore cannot afford the costs of such cases. A number of cases of conflict and discord are related to other cases, such as marital violence cases, which are in the criminal courts. This constitutes another obstacle, where the burden of finding evidence of violence is the responsibility of the woman who has been experienced violence.

### **Recommendations:**

- Amending the marriage age law so that it is not allowed to exceed the legal age under any pretext, and finding a clear way of enforcement and punishment for violators.
- Preparing specialized programs for divorced girls at an early age in order to enable getting education and developing skills.
- Since violence is one of the main causes of divorce, and since divorce procedures are complex and often put women in difficult circumstances, it may be important to educate women to put a condition in the marriage contract that stipulates their right to divorce in the event of experiencing violence.
- Preparing intensive awareness programs for husbands, considering the figures presented in the report on violence against women in general and the impact of violence on marriage and its relationship in cases of divorce and separation.
- Amending and activating the domestic/family violence law to include a special chapter on spousal violence in its various forms and types, such as psychological, physical, sexual violence, and deprivation, as well as detailing the forms of violence so that there is no difference in interpreting the law.
- Facilitation of legal procedures and setting specific time limits.
- Preparing awareness and counseling programs related to marital relationships and the effects of violence, lack of communication, and domination over the wife in marital disputes and divorce.