

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

Research Response Number: EGY31472
Country: Egypt
Date: 7 March 2007

Keywords: Egypt – Women – Family practices – Pregnancy

This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

Questions

Is it a tradition or a common occurrence in Egyptian society that pregnant women or women who have had babies live with their parents rather than their husbands?

RESPONSE

Is it a tradition or a common occurrence in Egyptian society that pregnant women or women who have had babies live with their parents rather than their husbands?

A thorough search of the sources consulted did not reveal any such practice occurring in Egypt. While there are instances of the husband, wife and children living in the same household as one set of parents, no occurrences were found where the wife moves in with her parents either prior to giving birth or after the birth (Yount, K.M. 2005, 'Women's Family Power and Gender Preference in Minya, Egypt', Emory University's Center on Myth and Ritual in American Life website, May <http://www.marial.emory.edu/pdfs/yount%20wp%2042.pdf> – Accessed 5 March 2007 – Attachment 1).

The Library of Congress Country Studies on Egypt contains a section titled 'Family and Kinship' which discusses the importance of kinship in Egypt and describes some common family traditions. No mention was made of the practice involving a women moving out of her family home away from her husband and living with her parents during pregnancy ('Country Studies: Egypt – Family and Kinship' 1990, Library of Congress website, December [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+eg0073](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+eg0073) – Accessed 5 March 2007 – Attachment 2).

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Government Information & Reports

US Department of State <http://www.state.gov/>

Non-Government Organisations

Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org/>

Region Specific Links

Egypt Today <http://www.egypttoday.com/>

The Daily Star Egypt <http://www.dailystaregypt.com/>

Search Engines

Google search engine <http://www.google.com.au/>

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIMA Country Information database)

REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)

ISYS (RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)

RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. Yount, K.M. 2005, 'Women's Family Power and Gender Preference in Minya, Egypt', Emory University's Center on Myth and Ritual in American Life website, May <http://www.marial.emory.edu/pdfs/yount%20wp%2042.pdf> – Accessed 5 March 2007.
2. 'Country Studies: Egypt – Family and Kinship' 1990, Library of Congress website, December [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+eg0073](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+eg0073) – Accessed 5 March 2007.