

Dr Sharifa Al Yahyai

- Former Minister of Social Development, Sultanate of Oman 2004-2011
- Academic Specialist in Women's Studies 2011- present
- The Resource Person to the 2nd International Conference on Gender and Sexuality 2019 held on the 03rd – 04th October 2019 in Colombo, Sri Lanka,
- Editorial board member of the Scientific Journal Rawafed in Social Sciences- University Center of Ain Tumoshint- Algeria- 2018- present
- Board Member of Arab Women Foundation 2011- 2021
- Member of Advisory Board in University of Business & Technology- Jeddah 2015- 2019

As a researcher, writer and motivational speaker, Dr Sharifa Al Yahyai is an academic expert in gender equality in Oman and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). She played a significant role in improving women's rights-related national policies in Oman when she was Minister of Social Development from 2004 to 2011.

During her time as minister, Dr Al Yahyai contributed significantly towards 17 October being designated as Omani Women's Day by His Majesty, the Sultan of Oman, then.

Since her appointment as Minister of Social Development in 2004, she has been participating actively in several national and international conventions related to women's empowerment, children's rights, civil society and the overall social development in Oman. In 2005, Dr Al Yahyai was awarded the Civil Ordinance of Oman- Class II by HM The Sultan Qaboos and in 2008, she received the Arab Woman Distinguished Award from Arab Women Foundation in social work. In addition to these accolades, in 2018, Dr Al Yahyai received the Arab Women Award of the Year by London Arabia Foundation and Regent London University.

During her academic role in Sultan Qaboos University prior to being a Minister of Social Development, she From 2001 – 2004, prior to her ministerial role, she was a professor in the department of Arabic Literature in Sultan Qaboos University and published several studies relevant to gulf literature, Omani poems and women's social and cultural values. She's currently a visiting lecturer in the College of Arts & Social Sciences. Dr Al Yahyai is well known for her studies and talks devoted to women's studies in Oman, the GCC and the wider Middle East and North Africa region.