

# Multidimensional Construct About The Robot Citizenship Law's In Saudi Arabia

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**Abstract:** *Recently controversial subject i.e. Saudi Arabia granted citizenship to a robot named Sophia leads to the development of separate laws for artificial intelligence. This kind of activities sometimes hinders us to take a call on future perspectives when robots will be there for complete assistance for human being. Meanwhile there are many restrictions remain for Saudi Arabian women, who are still subject to guardianship laws. These laws require them to obtain a male guardian's permission before they get married, apply for a passport or travel abroad. Which in reality raises question that Saudi granted more rights to robot than a Saudi woman. Getting this scenario in prospect we are now bound to develop some solid ethical constraints about human robot relationship and limitations to artificial intelligence.*

**Keywords:** *Robot Citizenship, Women Rights, Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, etc.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

In this era of developing artificial intelligence we are about to develop a humanoid style robot which can be capable of delivering your needs by logical thinking and actions. On Oct. 25 2017, at the future investment initiative summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia granted citizenship to Sophia. Sophia is nothing but a robot exactly looks like a women citizen with her sparkling eyes, raspberry lips, and no hair. Robot's creator is Dr. David Hanson from Hanson Robotics headquartered in Hong-Kong. After working at Disney as one of its "imagers", Dr. Hanson aspired to create genius machines that are smarter than humans and can learn creativity, empathy and compassion. These three human traits when developed alongside and integrated with artificial intelligence for robots they will be capable of competing with humans.

Sophia is Hanson Robotics latest and most advanced machine which has lots of capabilities like interview skills and can generate billions of views, potential of business with decision making power for banking, insurance, auto manufacturing, property development, media and entertainment. This machine can interact with humans and can provide assistance for our problems. Saudi Arabia attempt to

promote as a place to develop artificial intelligence where they eventually present Hanson robotics Sophia robot and granted citizenship to machine. Is it trustworthy where human society is not yet ready for citizen robots. To grant a robot citizenship is a declaration of trust in a technology, it brings social and ethical concerns that we as a human are not yet ready to manage. Also with respect to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which was supposed to provide an equivalent status of men and women all across the world. There are stringent laws regarding Saudi women which restricts women form civil rights like guardianship law which require them to obtain a male guardians permission before they get married, obtain a passport or travel abroad. Which is really raise a question that Saudi offers more rights to robot than a woman although the laws for citizenship of robot are not released officially.

## II. BRIEF HISTORY

Robots is nothing but a machine which is capable of carrying out a complex series of actions automatically with the help of computer programming. Now-a-days Artificial

Intelligence is developed at such extends that machine can mimic “cognitive” functions that humans associate with other human minds such as learning, problem solving, decision making and also even thinking at some extent. The idea originates in mythologies of many cultures around the world. Eventually science get developed and automation develops as a need for every individual which generates a term ‘Robot’ in 1920’s. In 1928 First humanoid robot was exhibited at model engineer’s society in London. The first electronic autonomous robot with complex behavior were created by W. G. Walter at Bristol, England in 1949.

Human being is bound by some laws which have to follow according to the national concern. As human get evolve gradually, different types of laws also evolved according to the necessity of situation, region and religion. Citizenship is the status of a person recognized under custom or law as being a legal member of a sovereign state or part of nation. A person may have multiple citizenship and a person who does not have a citizenship of any state is said to be stateless. Nationality is often used as a synonym. Saudi Arabian Citizenship System is the law that determines who is Saudi citizen. Saudi Arabia hardly offers citizenship to foreigners as there are very few ways to get access to it like by birth, by descent, by marriage, by naturalization. But offering the citizenship to Sophia robot Saudi get in the bigger picture.

### III. CITIZENSHIP LAWS

Citizenship is the position or status of being a citizen of a particular country. In exception refugees could be granted dual citizenship. The situation of middle east is quite unstable and due to the fact there are upsurge of ISIS lots of people are migrating to stable areas. After struggle over EU response to Syrian refugees, Collective responsibility among the world powers get together. According to Amnesty international claim zero refugees were taken by the Saudi Arabia commenting as a “Great Arabian Wall”. (Anhvinh Doanvo, Huffpost, 2017)

In Saudi Arabia citizenship law is officially known as Saudi Arabian Citizenship System. Anyone who was born or resided on Saudi Arabian land from 1332 Hijra – 1914 A.D. until 22/3/1345 Hijra provided that they did not acquire a foreign citizenship prior to this date. Other than this there are some categories by which citizenship can acquire that are by birth, by descent, by marriage and by naturalization.

If we consider United Nation High Commission of Refugees (UNHCR) “*persons recognized as refugees under the 1951 UN Convention/1967 Protocol, the 1969 OAU Convention, in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, persons granted a complementary form of protection and those granted temporary protection*”. *The Great Arabian Wall is not concerned about the refugees but providing the citizenship to Sophia will definitely raise the question about the stunt that media is considering. This will be considered as a most hazardous misconception and are palatable enough to become a part of mainstream political debates.*

### IV. WOMEN RIGHTS IN SAUDI ARABIA

Women Rights is the considerable issue in Saudi Arabia where the status has changed in recent decades. From 2011 king Abdullah let women to vote in 2015 elections as well as appointed to the consultative assembly. Saudi Arabia is considered as a closest thing to an “ideal and pure Islamic nation” and under the threat from “imported western values”. Laws for a women are considered from the Hanbali and Wahhabi interpretation of Sunni Islam, while traditional customs are from Arabian Peninsula. In 2017 king Salman ordered that women are allowed to access to government services such as education and healthcare without guardian’s consent.

Guardianship Law is one of the major factor among the women rights which restricts them from their civil rights like women need their permission for- Marriage and Divorce, Travel, Education, Employment, opening a bank account or undergoing for medical procedures. A hijab is a traditional Islamic norm whereby women are required “to draw their outer garments around them (when they go out or are among men)” and dress in a modest manner. Also there are various issues in sex segregation and different forms of educational and business sector.

Considering this issues in Saudi Arabian women, who are still subject to guardianship laws this nation is dropping robot from such restrictions and liberating a machine with a freedom from all sorts of citizenship rules is really a commendable job done by officials. We are now moving towards A.I development which leads us to the more freedom to robot/machine interventions in daily routine activities, so we are bound to provide for some ethical consideration and laws regarding the accessibility of robots.

### V. A.I AND ETHICAL QUESTIONS

Artificial Intelligence is also known as A.I or Machine intelligence which is provided to Sophia a robot developed by Hanson Robotics and granted citizenship of Saudi will lead us to develop some citizenship laws and concerns about the limitations of A.I. It may happen that Vernor Vinge concept about “the singularity” may lead some moment where robots might be somewhat dangerous for humans. According to AAI (Association of the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence) discussion due to some computer viruses and “cockroach intelligence” it might happen that semi autonomy of robot will lead us to potential hazards and pitfalls. Various media sources and scientific groups have noted separate trends in differing areas which might together result in greater robotic functionalities and autonomy, and which pose some inherent concerns. (Gaming the Robot Revolution: A military technology expert weighs in on Terminator: Salvation., By P. W. Singer, slate.com Thursday, May 21, 2009.) In 2015, the Nao Alderen robots were shown to have a capability for a degree of self-awareness. So we are now well acquainted that the complete autonomy and granting rights will be a big step forward towards human interventions and chaos. So we need a firm laws regarding the rights of offered to robots or A.I

machine. (Scientists Worry Machines May Outsmart Man By John Markoff, The New York Times, July 26, 2009.)

laws are indirectly permits the accessibility to a machine. Being a citizen in one place could mean being a legal person everywhere else.

## VI. CONCLUSION

The nation which is infamous for denying basic rights to its female citizen grants a citizenship to robot named Sophia is a controversial issue because there are lots of constraints about the artificial intelligence and providing a freedom to a machine that too greater than its own citizenship rights is basically a bold step towards unethical form. This concerns us to build a strong international laws regarding the AI-powered populations which is a nearby future. Also the researchers who advocates the Sophia is also not completely ready for this trustworthiness.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was proclaimed by the U.N. General Assembly in 1948, applies to “all peoples and all nations” and does not limit its effect to citizens. Since Sophia is now a citizen numerous articles and

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