

# Legal Bulletin

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## FNC member seeks restrictions on working hours for women

Abu Dhabi, A Federal National Council member called on the Government to prohibit women from working after 10pm in male-dominated shisha cafes for religious and moral reasons.

Sultan Al Shamsi (Ajman) said the labor law stated that women should not work between 10pm and 7am in any job, except with an exemption from the Ministry of Labor. As a result, in 1980 the ministry exempted the rule for women working in the ho-

tel industry, restaurants and music bars.

Saqr Ghobash, Minister of Labor, said there were 377,000 women working in the private sector, about 25,600 of whom work in the exempted industries. He added that the ministry also held thousands of inspections yearly to ensure women were not exploited.

Mr. Al Shamsi said there were huge numbers of women working in male-dominated coffee shops. He said that while the ministry provided women wi-

th exemptions, it did not specify timings and places or nature of work.

The minister told Mr. Al Shamsi to provide any information he had about unlawful practices. He added that this was something the ministry would study in the future if it was, in fact, a new trend.

“We are ready to study this phenomena and see how widespread and how troubling it is,” Mr. Ghobash said, adding that he would look into reviewing the current exemptions.

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