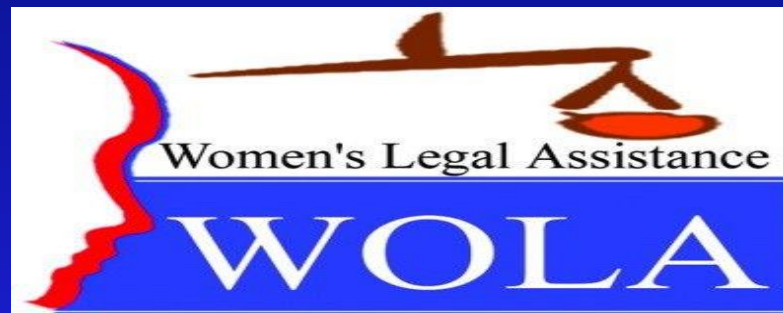


WOMEN' RIGHTS IN IRAQ



UPR Info Pre-sessions

Situation in IRAQ



Women's Legal Assistance Organization (WOLA), a non-profit, non-governmental organization founded in 2008 with a mission to advance gender equality and promote a culture of non-violence in Iraq. Through extensive monitoring across Iraq, WOLA has documented persistent gender discrimination within law enforcement practices, despite the existence of protective legal frameworks.



Situation in Country IRAQ

– Issue 1

Recommendation (147. 40 - Poland) partially implemented. □

- Progress has been made in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region on women's protection and involvement in leadership, political roles, and decision-making, mainly through the 1325 National Action Plan. However, there's no government budget allocated for implementing this plan.
- • Women's participation is still low, with only 48 out of 231 judges being women.
- • In the Kurdistan Region's 5th Cabinet, only 4 out of 22 ministers are women.
- • In the General Directorate for Combating Violence Against Women, all officers are male across its 28 offices.



Recommendations – Issue 1

- We recommended that the IRAQ government to:
 - ❑ Amend the law to allocate a dedicated budget for the implementation of Resolution 1325.
 - ❑ Expedite the adoption of Plan 3 of Resolution 1325 as soon as possible.
 - ❑ Establish advocacy mechanisms to provide higher-level protection for women and ensure their participation in the political process.
 - ❑ Allow women to participate freely and equally in all sectors, including education, health, and the interior ministry, among others.



Situation in Country IRAQ– Issue 2

- **Recommendation 147. 68 Croatia / 147.151 Pakistan**
- • The law addresses domestic violence, including honor killings, in the Kurdistan Region but not under federal jurisdiction.
- • Honor-related murders persist in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region, with 50 to 60 women killed annually in the Kurdistan Region. Few perpetrators face justice due to a lack of formal complaints and arrest warrants.



Recommendations – Issue 2

- 1. We recommend establishing a special court for honor-related killings to speed up case resolutions. □
2. We support gender-balanced judicial appointments and adding female officers for fair evidence collection
3. We call for the prompt passage of the Domestic Violence Law and amendments to the Iraqi Penal Code to criminalize honor-related killings.



Situation in Country IRAQ– Issue 3

- **(147.108 Seychelles) partially implemented.**
- The Personal Status Law No. 188 of 1959 was based on the provisions of Islamic laws (Sharia), selecting what is compatible with the values of pluralism and equality among the constituents of the diverse Iraqi society,
- Our country is currently facing challenges that require unity and societal cohesion, but unfortunately the existence of a draft law to amend the Personal Status Law since July and the request to return to religious sects at the time of concluding the marriage contract, this affects the disintegration of society, and on the other hand, amending the legal age from 18 years to 9 years according to some religious sects .



Recommendations – Issue 3

- The government should establish an inter-ministerial commission to re-evaluate existing laws and ensure that women's rights are upheld in accordance with international standards.
- This commission should work to prevent the reversal of amendments and laws that have been implemented in the Kurdistan Region, which include protections benefiting women.
- The necessity of immediately withdrawing the amendments to the current Personal Status Law, and not voting on it and also urging the parliament to boycott their votes or vote no, especially since it comes as part of a political deal to pass important laws.



Thank you

Thank you to the women's NGOs, activists, and all the WOLA lawyers and staff who contributed to the preparation of this report.

Shokhan Hmarashd Ahmed □

Email: wola_org@yahoo.com □

www.wola-ngo.org □

