

NEWSLETTER

Women, Youth, Peace and Security Program



School of Peace Students

The "School of Peace" is dedicated to empowering young women and men across Iraq to enhance their involvement in the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda. In partnership with the Women Empowerment Organization, Search for Common Ground selected 19 young participants from various governorates in Iraq, prioritizing the enhancement of women's participation.

Two sets of training sessions were conducted for these participants, combining both in-person and online formats. In September 2023, a three-day in-person training covered topics such as the involvement of youth in peacebuilding, advocacy strategies, and the role of social media in campaigns. The training included group discussions, brainstorming activities, and team-building exercises.

The second phase consisted of three online sessions aimed at guiding participants in designing media advocacy campaigns and providing feedback for the youth regarding the implementation of the initiatives identifying the targeted groups and method of integration. This phase aimed to amplify the roles of young women and men in the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda and influence societal perceptions through media.

Currently, Women Empowerment Organization and Search for Common Ground are in the preparation phase, with participants to implement their campaigns independently in their respective governorates, including Halabja. In the near future, School of Peace students will launch their media campaigns to empower young women and men in Iraq and boost their societal participation.

Following this initiative, the Women Empowerment Organization and Search for Common Ground will host the "School of Peace Competition," where the top three students will secure full funding for their campaigns.



Sulaymaniyah

Shara Khalil Sharif

For the past eight years, I have collaborated with international organizations, making a significant impact in child protection, women's empowerment, and youth development, especially within displaced and host communities. By leading strategic program management, advocacy efforts, and capacity-building initiatives, I have helped bring about tangible improvements in the lives of vulnerable populations. My commitment to fostering inclusive communities drives my goal of achieving sustainable change and creating lasting positive impact. As a member of the School of Peace, I am dedicated to advancing our objectives in the Sulaymaniyah Governorate.



Najaf

Saja Yasser

Since 2019, I have been a dedicated community activist, collaborating with various local organizations on a range of projects. I have worked on initiatives promoting sustainable livelihoods to empower youth and participated in numerous campaigns aimed at eliminating violence against women and empowering them. Currently, I am involved in a project to promote transitional justice. My goal is to raise community awareness through social media and meetings with organizations, advocating for women's issues. As part of the School of Peace, I am excited to engage in more effective activities in the Najaf Governorate.



Dhi Qar

Mujtaba Kareem

As a producer and presenter of radio and television programs, I am a strong advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. In my roles as a member of the Iraqi Youth Parliament and president of the Mishkat Organization for the Blind, I emphasize the capabilities of blind individuals to work and integrate into society. Additionally, I am a member of the Iraqi Cultural Media Center, where I strive to highlight the success stories of this marginalized group. My goal is to draw society's attention to marginalized groups and advocate for their inclusion in all aspects of life. Currently, as a member of the School of Peace, I am committed to striving for the best through this initiative.



Halabja

Shkar Izzat Mustafa

With 10 years of experience as an activist, I have dedicated myself to civil society, environmental issues, and youth affairs. One of my proudest achievements is successfully establishing the first women's department in an organization where I was a member. Recognizing the vital importance of women's participation, I am proud to say that the women's department is now the most active part of our organization. My goal is to significantly advance women's rights and help them achieve their rightful place in society. Currently, I am participating in the School of Peace to make a difference in my community and in the Halabja Governorate.



Al-Qadisiyyah

Nagham Salem Ahed

I am a civil activist and an experienced trainer committed to promoting human rights and cultivating a culture of acceptance in Iraqi society. As a volunteer, I focus on supporting initiatives aimed at ensuring lasting happiness for Iraq's children, empowering them to embrace life and overcome challenges. My primary goal is to protect a generation of Iraqi children from the devastating effects of anemia. I am honored to participate in the School of Peace, where I aim to create a significant impact, especially in Al-Qadisiyyah Governorate.



Diyala

Noor Saad Ibrahim

Since 2017, I have been actively involved as a community activist, dedicated to promoting peacebuilding and social cohesion. My efforts encompass civil society and civic activism, with a strong focus on supporting displaced persons and refugees. I employ art, music, and painting in initiatives aimed at fostering peacebuilding and social unity. I have launched numerous community and youth projects, including specialized programs for children, recognizing their crucial role in cultivating healthy communities resilient against extremism and terrorism. Currently, my focus is on raising awareness among social media users about the risks of drug abuse. As a participant in the School of Peace, I am committed to enhancing women's roles in society. I eagerly anticipate making meaningful contributions to these endeavors and fostering enduring change in my community.



Baghdad

Laith Ali Aname

I began my community involvement in Baghdad two years ago, focusing on environmental and architectural issues, female youth leadership, and community peacebuilding. I strongly believe that the growing interest of youth in areas such as environmental conservation, urban heritage preservation, and civic engagement can have a profound and positive impact on their surroundings. My goal is to help create a better community for our youth. Participating in the School of Peace has provided me with valuable training to achieve this aim.



Maysan

Abu Al-Hassan Raed

I am a passionate human rights activist with a particular focus on women's rights. My journey began in 2014 as a volunteer in a program affiliated with the Center for Human Rights Development. Over the years, my experiences have expanded to include report writing and preparation, advocacy campaigns, project management, and contributions to national plans. I have supported thousands of beneficiaries by managing and assisting in various programs. Currently, I serve as the Executive Director of the Safe Foundation for Promoting Democracy. My goal is to develop the foundation with a clear vision to serve the youth in southern Iraq, particularly through my participation in the School of Peace.



Salah Al-Din

Shamil Zamel Kaim

Human rights activist with a Master's degree in International Law, I have extensive experience in writing human rights reports and research, as well as in executing successful advocacy campaigns. I am committed to promoting human rights and social and environmental justice, and my goal is for the second national action plan for Resolution 1325 to be a decisive and effective step towards empowering women and increasing their participation in all areas of life. As a member of the Peace School implemented by the Women's Empowerment Organization in partnership with Search for Common Ground, I hope we can together disseminate the school's goals of empowering young women and men throughout Iraq, especially in Salah al-Din Governorate.



Al-Muthanna

Zainab Musa Wanas

I am a dedicated youth activist committed to fostering positive social change in my community by harnessing the enthusiasm and energy of young people to create real impact. In my district, I actively engage in volunteer work and contribute to community-serving projects, such as environmental cleanup campaigns, distributing aid to those in need, supporting marginalized groups, and participating in advocacy and lobbying efforts. My goal is to advocate for updates to laws and legislation that align with our national plan's objectives, ensuring the establishment of effective oversight mechanisms. Additionally, I am actively involved in the School of Peace in Al-Muthanna, where I continue to grow and contribute to initiatives for sustainable peace and development.



Wasit

Arshad Abdul Ameer Jabbour

I have dedicated my efforts to empowering young men and women in political and social decision-making processes, free from partisan and tribal pressures, through various forums and meetings, most notably the Al-Nimni Cultural Forum in my governorate. I have championed freedom of expression and promoted legitimate freedoms through grassroots campaigns, protests, and by mobilizing public opinion on social media. My goal is to continually strive for a modern, democratic, civil state that serves all segments of the population. Currently, I am an active participant in the School of Peace, working to achieve more accomplishments in the Wasit Governorate.



Duhok

Mamoun Khaled Musa

As a youth activist, I am deeply committed to advocating for women's rights and empowerment within my community. Through collaboration with esteemed organizations like Women Empowerment Organization and Search for Common Ground, I aim to foster cooperation and facilitate the exchange of vital information among women's rights organizations in Iraq. My goal is to promote the sharing of knowledge, experiences, and achievements that contribute to positive change for women across Iraq. I am dedicated to supporting the implementation of the Iraqi National Action Plan and advancing the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda. In my province of Duhok, I actively promote gender equality and empowerment, particularly through my engagement in the School of Peace and its objectives for sustainable peace and development.



Erbil

Marwa Mustafa

I am a young activist committed to catalyzing positive change within my community. My efforts center on promoting peace among diverse groups and advocating for a greener environment with more green spaces. At the core of my work is empowering youth from various backgrounds to engage in constructive dialogue and initiate impactful actions. My ultimate aim is to foster a more inclusive and sustainable environment for everyone. Currently, I am actively involved in the School of Peace as a representative from Erbil Governorate. I am dedicated to enhancing women's participation in society and securing their rights, striving to make meaningful contributions to these initiatives.



Kirkuk

Ayat Abbas Abdul Latif

I am a committed human rights activist and specialized trainer in youth empowerment and peacebuilding. Since 2008, I have passionately volunteered to advocate for human rights, with a strong emphasis on women's rights, minority rights, transitional justice, and reparations. Additionally, I am dedicated to protecting and empowering human rights defenders. Currently, I am actively involved in the School of Peace as an activist in Kirkuk Governorate. The School of Peace aims to engage young women and men across Iraq and increase their involvement in Women, Peace, and Security agenda. I am eager to contribute to these endeavors and make a positive impact in my community.



Basra

Ali Ghazi Hanoun

I am deeply involved in civil activism and dedicated to training others. I have led sessions on entrepreneurship, human development, and digital security, focusing on enhancing the skills of young people. Additionally, I actively participate in environmental protection efforts and educate youth about their rights and advocacy opportunities through various volunteer activities. My aim is to use my skills and abilities to make a positive impact in my country, especially by addressing humanitarian and environmental challenges. Currently, I am a student at the School of Peace, which empowers young women and men in the community. I am enthusiastic about contributing to these initiatives and fostering significant change.



Babil

Al-Hassan Ali

With experience in humanitarian and sustainable development fields, I have collaborated with local and international organizations. My work includes managing and implementing projects that raise community awareness and provide essential services to those in need. My profound dedication to effecting positive change consistently drives me to seek opportunities that promote community development and sustainable growth. My primary objective is to advocate for security, peace, and the empowerment of women, while also increasing awareness within our community. Currently, I am actively engaged in the School of Peace as a resident of Babil Governorate. I am committed to making meaningful contributions toward these goals and fostering a more peaceful and inclusive society.



Anbar

Tariq Abdul Karim Hussein

Within my organization, I concentrate on advancing democracy in the region through rigorous training sessions tailored for youth. These sessions are designed to deepen their comprehension of Iraq's democratic framework and empower them to participate effectively within legal boundaries. I am deeply committed to advocating for people with disabilities and addressing their unique requirements. As a participant in the School of Peace representing Anbar Governorate, I am actively involved in initiatives to boost youth engagement within the community. Through the school's comprehensive training programs, my goal is to strengthen their skills and empower them to make significant contributions to society.

A picture from one of the School of Peace training activities





Women Empowerment Organization

Location

Erbil Office (HQ): Ankawa, 4 Towers, Building C, 13th Floor, Office No. 64A and 65A

Bghdad Office: Karada, Al-Fath Square opposite the National Theater, Area 904, Street 99, Building 62, 3rd Floor

Email

info@weoiraq.org

Phone Number

(+964) 750 229 2525

Website

www.weoiraq.org

    **@weoiraq**