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WPSA NEWSLETTER



WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY AGENDA

Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) is a policy framework that recognizes that women must be critical actors in all efforts to achieve sustainable international peace and security. WPS promotes equality and justice perspective and women's equal and meaningful participation in peace processes, peacebuilding, and security.

WPS COORDINATION MECHANISM

WEO has started implementing the project "Coordination Mechanism for the WPS Agenda in Iraq including Kurdistan Region, supported by the programme "Strengthening the Participation of Women in the Rehabilitation and Peace Process in Iraq" (SPW) of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German government. The project goal is to establish a coordination mechanism among the WPS actors on different levels to enhance the efforts and to better follow up with the implementation of the WPS Agenda in Iraq.

WHY COORDINATION MECHANISM?

- Better intervention for women and girls' needs at the national level.
- Inclusive response in protection against sexual violence, violence against women, and lack of security.
- Clear vision on achieving equality and justice and comprehensive peace.
- Enhance follow up, and support advocacy of the WPS agenda implementation in Iraq.
- Amendment of policies related to the protection and participation of women in peacemaking processes.



New Coordination Mechanism

Women Empowerment Organization - October 2022, Erbil

The first coordination meeting for the actors working on the WPS Agenda in Iraq including Kurdistan Region was held in Erbil on October 31, 2022. Attendees included members of Iraqi and Kurdistan Parliaments, representatives of the federal and Kurdistan Governments, in addition to representatives from international community, EU, UK Consulate, German Consulate, many international and national civil society organizations and networks. The main purpose of the meeting was First: to strengthen the coordination mechanism between actors to advance the WPSA in Iraq, unite efforts, fill the gaps, and access to opportunities; Second: presenting the coordination mechanism that will serve as a platform for action on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda; Third: follow up on available information, projects, and data related to the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda; Forth: advocating for more programs and setting and amendment of policies on the protection and participation of women in peacemaking processes.

“ The existing domestic violence law needs a comprehensive definition of VAWG ”

EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI) - WEO, Erbil 2021



Under the patronage of the Judicial Council of Kurdistan Region, Women Empowerment Organization (WEO) in partnership with EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI), organized an Experts' roundtable on November 17th, 2021, in Erbil about "Discrimination in Laws and Protecting Women and Girls from Violence" marking the global campaign on 16 Days against VAWG. The roundtable provided a platform to share lessons learned and best practices from combating VAWG in the region and discussed legal discrimination of women in Personal Status Law and Penal Code in KRG. It elaborated recommendations for alternatives based on international women's rights norms and governmental commitments. Furthermore, it enabled the coordination of strategies to raise awareness on VAWG and to advocate for the adoption, enforcement and implementation of comprehensive laws that criminalize VAWG and address all its forms.

Future Forward Iraqi Women's Leadership Initiative

Heartland Alliance, Baghdad, Sulaymaniyah, Duhok, Basra, Muthanna 2022

Heartland Alliance provided a series of trainings about legislation and the importance of women leadership in governance, for politicians, activist and young women including civil society members within the project "future forward Iraqi women's leadership initiative". The project aimed that Iraqi women play a leadership role in improved governance & stability inside Iraq and had huge impact on policy reform and women resilience. The key outcomes were women empowerment, resilience, protection, legislative reform, garnering public support from male community members to women's rights. The project was funded by Global Affairs Canada.



Inclusive Peace and Security

Search for Common Ground, WEO, Iraq 2022 - 2026

Inclusive Peace and Security (IPS) is a four-year program that aims to strengthen women and youth's meaningful, enduring participation in advancing inclusive peace and security in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. In Iraq, Search for Common Ground has partnered with Women Empowerment Organization (WEO) to implement the IPS program. Recognizing that inclusive peace is mutually reinforced through bottom-up and top-down processes, IPS will amplify the influence of youth and women peacebuilders at the grassroots level, catalyze broad inclusion of grassroots peacebuilders in municipal and national institutions and peace processes, and advance social norms that support the meaningful inclusion of diverse stakeholders in peace and security. The project is funded by SIDA.



Observing Equality and Justice Standards in the Transition to Peace & Security in Iraq

Iraqi Women Network (IWN), Baghdad 2022



The Iraqi Women's Network has supported the efforts of the Ministry of Interior to develop a code of conduct for members of the Internal Security Forces and including a special article on the criminal justice path for women and girls. The key outcome of the project is the approval of the Code of Conduct in November 2022. The effect was improving the capabilities of the Ministry of the Interior to include equality and justice concept in its policy. The project was funded by PAX.

WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY

1325

Women | Peace | Security

The Women Peace and Security Agenda was launched with the adoption of The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2000. It focuses on the fact that people are differently affected by conflict and have the right to influence decisions that affect their lives. WPSA acknowledges that involving the most affected people in the decision-making process produces better results in general. WPSA seeks to ensure women's active and meaningful participation in all mechanisms and institutions of conflict prevention and to mainstream equality and justice perspective in all activities and strategies of peace and security.

A Road Map For Iraqi Women in Light of The 2030 Agenda

TAM Network for Sustainable Development 2030 - Baghdad 2022



TAM network developed a road map for Iraqi women that represents the civil society's future vision towards women's issues, an action guide for formulating future actions from the point of view of civil society, a means to mobilize stakeholders and increase the consistency of actors in women's issues, and a document for communication with partners. The map was presented to Dr. Yusra Al-Alaq, Director General of the Women's Empowerment Department, to make it a source of the National Strategy for Women 2023-2030.

Building Inclusive Societies in Iraq Through Social Cohesion And Rebuilding Trust

Baghdad Women Association – Dec 2021 – Jan 2022

BWA has trained 96 (female and male) Iraqi youth about UNSCR 1325 (Women, Peace, and Security) in Dohuk governorate. Aiming to enhance the participation of young people in resolutions related to women and girls' rights by building their capacities and raising their awareness in integrating international resolutions in society. The project is in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation and the University of Duhok and with the support of the Swedish Church.



Strengthening Women's Rights Movements on The Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Three Fragile Contexts

Care International - Anbar, Salahaddin, Ninewa 2022

Women's Rights Organizations and excluded groups of women and girls in Egypt, Iraq and South Sudan have increased their influence on the UNSCR 1325 agenda on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) at the local, national, and multi-country levels. In coordination with 3 Women Rights Organizations (BWA, BWO, WEO), CARE has conducted interviews for the Women Led Organizations and started to establish networks with the national women led organizations. The project is funded by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.