

Committee: UNWOMEN

Country: Iraq

Agenda Item(s): Strengthening protections around women's fundamental rights in the MENA region



Republic of Iraq is a country located in West Asia bordering Iran, Türkiye, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Kuwait. The region, also known as Mesopotamia, cradle of civilization. Arabs and Kurds create the majority in Iraq's population, and the official languages are Arabic and Kurdish. In latest reports, Iraq's Human Development Index score reached 0.712. The United Nations Development Programs stated that it is a turning point for the Republic of Iraq.

Iraq recognizes that women's rights is a necessary for development and social stability. The Republic of Iraq targets to create peace in society with creating equal opportunities between genders before the law without contradicting Islamic provisions. Iraq also ratified CEDAW, the convention prepared by United Nations in 1979 to eliminate all sorts of gender inequality before the law in between the society. In 1950s, Iraq was the first Arab country who had a female minister. She created a law for women to have the right for asking a divorce. Women gained right to use vote and get into government positions in 1980s. Yet after United States entered Iraq, many key rights had been lost such as The Family Statutes law. Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI) established in 2003 and still exist in Iraq is very active in last years and tries to change the traditional issues about women rights in Iraq also such laws discriminate women and their problems before the law. In the Republic of Iraq, there were immunity for the men who committed "Honour Crimes" in 1990s which creates a high rate of femicides under the name of "Honour Crimes" and female suicides reports that is not really clarified at all. With later changes in law, it is only punishable for a maximum of 3 years. OWFI's shelters creates great opportunity for domestic violence victims and other victims such as women who is in vulnerable situation against their abusers or rapists. OWFI also provides mental support and encouragement for these women in the Republic of Iraq. As the organization tries to protect war-torn people, it is the biggest movement in Iraq for women rights and gender equality in recent years.

In the Republic of Iraq, there is a need for new, more humanitarian laws recognizes gender inequality in all ways and fights upon discriminations without any conditions. Iraq proposes strengthening the government protection over women in disadvantaged situations with laws and increasing public knowledge upon the issue. Putting an end to femicides between the population and decreasing women's problems such as domestic violence or harassment towards women in public or workplaces is necessary for a more peaceful environment in the country. Iraq reaffirms

its willingness to address and act upon women's fundamental rights and challenges women lived in MENA region within United Nations Women.