Towards Abolition of Discrimination Against Women

Some International Sources on Women’s Rights

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

Women are entitled to the equal enjoyment and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. These rights include,

(a) The right to life;
(b) The right to liberty and security of person;
(c) The right to freedom from all forms of discrimination;
(d) The right to equal protection under the law;
(e) The right to be free from all forms of violence against women;
(f) The right to the highest standard attainable of health;
(g) The right not to be subjected to torture, or punishment.

These rights are set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted and proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 18 December 1993 (CEDAW) (UN General Assembly No 34/180, dated 23 February 1979, Article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (UN General Assembly No 34/180, dated 23 February 1979)

Women’s rights are protected by various international agreements and conventions. For example, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) includes the right to life, liberty, and security of person, and the right to freedom from all forms of discrimination. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW) sets out the rights of women and the measures to be taken to prevent and eliminate violence against women.

Women have the right to equality and protection under the law, and to equal access to education, training, and employment opportunities. They also have the right to equal pay for equal work, and to equal opportunities in political life and in the fields of culture, art, science, education, and all other fields.

In addition, women have the right to participate in the political life of their countries, and to be free from all forms of discrimination. They also have the right to protection against exploitation and forced labor.

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Empowering Women to defend their rights

A legal assessment study was conducted to measure the compliance of the Iraqi legislation with the related international legislation, namely the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and consequently has proposed reform recommendations.

Three technical training courses were organized to enhance the skills and capabilities of civil society organizations to promote and support the implementation of the reform recommendations provided in the legal assessment study.

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A Strong Coalition

A strong local network of Iraqi women civil society organizations is formed, working along with key stakeholders and decision makers concerned with women's rights in Iraq.

Capacity Building

Improving the local CSOs' technical skills and building their capacities to advocate for the implementation of the recommendations proposed in the legal assessment study.

A National workshop to discuss the legal assessment study on "the compliance of the Iraqi legislation with the related international legislation".

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The workshop gathered Iraqi activists in the field of human rights and women's rights, including women civil society organizations (CSOs).

Over nine months, the project has contributed to empowering women civil society organizations (CSOs) to challenge gender discrimination in Iraqi legislation and enable them to:

- Launch dialogue with local policy makers and decision makers concerned in women affairs
- Counteract law violations
- Actively engage their rights
- Empowering Organizations

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"Towards Abolition of Discrimination Against Women (TADAWI)", is a project implemented by the Arab Center for the Rule of Law and Integrity, in cooperation with Iraqi Al-Amal Association, with the support of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO).

The project focuses on:

- A training of trainers session on Gender Equity
- A training of trainers session on Violence Against Women
- A training of trainers session on Gender Equity and Women (CEDAW), and consequently has proposed reform recommendations.

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Technicians of TOTs (TOTs) sessions

Three TOT sessions for the CSOs representatives were organized in light of the legal assessment study's findings in relation to Gender Equity and Violence Against Women.

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