



Republic of Iraq

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Hamid Al Bayati
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq to
the United Nations
To
The fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the
Status of Women**

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In the Name of God the most Merciful the most Compassionate

Due to situation that Iraq went through in past four decades that included wars, violence, economic sanctions and terrorism, generated the phenomena of violence in Iraq community including the Kurdistan Region. A number of incidents began to raise the public opinion and a source of danger to the Iraqi family in general and on women particular.

The new Iraqi Constitution guaranteed the protection of the family in Article 29 and it considered it the foundation of society and it obligated the all the branches of Government to protect motherhood, childhood, the elderly, and the youth from all forms of violence in the family, school and society.

Therefore the Central Government in Iraq paid special attention to violence in the Iraqi family. In 2009 the Family Protection Committee was established and chaired by the Ministry of State for Women issues. This committee recommended the establishment of family protection departments in the Ministry of Interior. There are now 16 departments in all Iraqi provinces and it include female staff of Police Officers, Social workers and legal personal that aim at resolving family matters through consolation and compromise and to protect the rights of women and children and spread the culture of peace and rejection of violence. The committee is under the auspice of the Ministry of Interior and it develops training programs aimed at serving the Iraqi society. When it comes to regulations, in 2012 the Anti Trafficking Law was passed and higher committee was established to implement chaired by the Ministry of Interior and first time ever a safe haven for victims of human trafficking was established.

In this context, H.E. the Prime Minister of Iraq announced last year in the World Day against violence his call to expedite the adoption of the law on the protection form violence and its strategy.

The Ministry of Women presented the law on the protection from family violence to the regulators, in addition to presenting a number of amendments on the penal code and the strategy to combat violence against women.

On another level, there is a department for Women Rights within the Ministry of Human Rights that monitors the situation of female prisoners and detainees. In 2012 a special committee was established regarding this issue within the Ministry of Women to monitor the work and to present suggestions to the Ministry of Justice, which develops diverse programs to rehabilitate prisoners. In addition to that, many steps were taken recently to release many of the detainees and prisoners and the Iraqi Prime Minister announced a special amnesty for prisoners and he called to ease the related procedures.

Regarding the Kurdistan Region:

Many institutions were established to guarantee the rights of women, such as the High Council for Women Affairs, and the Women Rights Monitoring Council, the General Directorate for Combating Violence against Women in the Ministry of Interior and the Councils to combat violence against women in the provinces and shelters to protect battered women. Moreover, the following laws were passed, the anti domestic violence law of the misuse of communication devices. In addition to that the national strategy to combat violence against women in the region was approved, which led to the creation of the High Council to Combat Violence against women with representatives from the different Ministries and chaired by the Prime Minister and under the supervision for the High Council for Women Affairs.