

Developing National Action Plan for Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Iraq

Strategic Meeting-Civil Society Reference Group

28th - 29th July 2012 Beirut

Report

European Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI



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Strategic Meeting-Civil Society Reference Group, Iraq
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I. Background

This strategic meeting of a civil society reference group is one of the outcomes of the workshop “Towards creation of National Action Plan for implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Iraq”, organized on 25th -27th April 2012 in Amman by the European Feminist Initiative (IFE-EFI) in cooperation and with the support of the Norwegian Embassy Amman. One of the identified challenges by the participants during this workshop was connected with lack of maturity in networking and building alliances and insufficient will among CSOs to work together. Addressing it was seen as a precondition for the success of the whole process and consequently for the development of the NAP. Therefore the participants delegated responsibilities to four of them to widen the process and reach out to other leading activists from networks and NGOs and form **a civil society’s leading focus group** that would work together and ensure that an all-inclusive consultative process for developing of a National Action Plan (NAP) in Iraq takes place.



Iraq NAP 1325 Initiative: Civil Society Reference Group Strategic Meeting, Beirut, July 28-29, 2012

Between April and June the process continued and representatives from major women’s rights organizations and networks in the civil society were approached and invited to the Civil Society Strategic Meeting in Beirut on 28-29 July 2012. (See Annex A List of participants) IFE-EFI partners from Lebanon, Association Najdeh supported the meeting and participated as a resource from the region.

II. Objectives of the meeting

- ✓ Develop common understanding and strengthen collaboration amongst key women's groups' and networks' representatives to develop NAP
- ✓ Taking the benefit of the Nepalese successful experience, identify key strategies and work plan for the development of NAP and ToR of the national reference civil society group

III. Expected Results

- ✓ A strong unified leadership group as a guarantee for the development of NAP in Iraq and a reference group from the civil society for government, donor community, UN agencies and political sphere.
- ✓ A working plan and strategy for a strengthened process of developing a NAP.

IV. Outcomes of the meeting

- 1. Sharing among major Iraqi women's rights organizations and networks, discussing challenges and mapping actions regarding implementation of UNSCR 1325.**
- 2. Developed argumentation on the need of NAP for Iraq and an outline of a NAP framework with goal, specific objectives and main principles/pillars.**
- 3. Expressed willingness and reached consensus to work together towards building political will for developing of NAP through high quality of the dialogue, listening, respect and acknowledging differences; identified governmental, international and civil society actors.**
- 4. Initiating a powerful process by bringing together different experiences and expertise. Reaching an agreement to maintain coordination, cooperation and transparency in work of the reference group.**
- 5. Underlining the risk of having individual work in parallel. This risk being limited because, as the experience shows, the process of NAP requests broad support, collective ownership and national and international support /backing.**
- 6. Reaching consensus that developing NAP is not important per sig. What is important and a precondition for success is the inclusive process and ownership towards which this national group agreed to work.**
- 7. Agreeing on the name of the national reference group: Iraq NAP 1325 Initiative (*I-NAP 1325 Initiative*)**
- 8. Outlining a preliminary plan of action for the *I-NAP 1325 Initiative* for the first several months, namely 1st September – 31 December 2012 with a focus on building political will towards developing NAP; reaching out to other groups working with UNSCR 1325 inside Iraq and starting a broad consultation process.**



Bandana Rana, President, Saathi, Nepal
Sharing Nepali successful experience and lessons learned

V. Why a National Action Plan to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in Iraq (Work in groups and common discussion)

Iraq is considered as a country in a post-conflict situation. Conflicts and wars have affected the social, economic, cultural, health and political status of women. Despite having a critical role in sustaining the society and what has remained of the infrastructure; despite playing a critical role in social, political and economic development in the post war Iraq, women have been marginalized in the public and private life; excluded from decision making on all levels and consequently have been deprived from the opportunity to influence the decisions that shape their lives. The discrimination and violence against women in the legislation, in the economic and social life persist, contributing to increasing their sense of insecurity.

The Resolution 1325 is recognition of the UN most powerful decision making body, the Security Council, that sustainable peace and security can only be achieved with the protection and the participation of the whole society – both women and men. The UNSCR 1325 should be implemented not only by the United Nations Security Council and by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, by all parties to armed conflict and by all actors involved in negotiation and implementation of peace agreements but also by all the governments of all Member States. It is therefore like an international law mandatory for all member States. As such UNSCR 1325 is an essential part of the global international efforts towards social justice through gender equality and empowerment of women. Together with other international mechanisms as CEDAW and Beijing Platform for Action it is powerful instrument in the hands of the civil society to make governments accountable.

To achieve social justice and long lasting peace on the ground and to ensure the involvement of the whole society in this process in Iraq requires political will to implement UNSCR 1325. However, the Resolution is written in general terms, concerning women's needs for all conflicts and post-conflict areas. In order for the government in Iraq to adopt a

contextualized and effective response enabling the implementation of UNSCR1325, it needs a national plan with specific, measurable and time-limited objectives. Furthermore, in order to change the situation of women, it requires specific actions and policies, accountability mechanism for the ministries and respective authorities, a concrete allocated budget, transparency and therefore evaluation and monitoring reporting mechanism.

A NAP is needed in Iraq for the following concrete reasons:

1. Development of a National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 will give women's rights defenders the ability and the capacity to adopt a right based approach to achieving just and sustainable peace in Iraq, strengthening the 1325 link to the rest of the international conventions on human rights in general and women rights in particular and ensure the respect of the rights of women and girls as universal human rights.
2. A NAP will contribute to achieving sustainable peace and security for women through rights-based policies and legislation for the protection of women from all forms of gender-based violence. It will enable the mapping and the identification of the special needs of women and girls during post-conflict, transitional period.
3. A NAP will favor the actual presence and meaningful participation of women in all the positions of decision making, including private sector, police, military, security and defense as well as peace negotiations among different ethnic and religious groups, which corresponds to the actual percentage of women in the Iraqi society that is around 60%.
4. A NAP will enable full and comprehensive review of all policies and legislation and consequently, the amendment of the ones which are discriminatory for women. In this way it will contribute to the governmental efforts of adopting of new legislation to ensure the protection, participation and promotion of women's capacities and abilities in all spheres of political, cultural and economic life.
5. The existence of a NAP will lead to the allocation of financial resources in the State's public budget as well as in the grants given from the international donor organizations and bodies, enabling its implementation.
6. Last, but not least, the development of a NAP and the success in its implementation will make Iraq a leading country and a reference in the region. In the MENA there is no NAP for the implementation of UNSCR1325. The Iraqi government can set an example to be followed by all the other governments in the region and in this way contribute to a long-term needed regional peace process, which is very volatile at the moment of working.



After group work

VI. Framework of a NAP in Iraq

1. Overall Objective of NAP in Iraq

Building peace in Iraq through achieving equality between women and men and reaching social justice in all spheres of life

2. Specific Objectives

- ✓ Increasing the active and proportional participation of women in decision-making positions on local and national level, in committees of reconciliation and in all the peace-building negotiations
- ✓ Amending the legislations and laws which violate women rights.
- ✓ Empowerment of women and strengthening of their capacity through right-based approach
- ✓ Introduce gender analyses in peace building in Iraq

3. Main principles and pillars of NAP in Iraq

Participation

- **Objective:** 1. Ensuring fair proportional representation and full participation of women.
- **Activities:** That pillar would include revision of existing policies and amendments (security, civil service etc); Gender trainings for government, security institutions, special forces; gender trainings and capacity building for female candidates and public awareness raising

Protection and Prevention

- **Objective:** 1. Reducing and limiting the violence against women and providing victims with safe shelters. 2. Protection of women rights during the post-conflict transitional period
- **Activities:** That pillar would include capacity building, identifying the actual women affected by conflict, widows, victims of trafficking and prostitution: capacity building for institutions - police training; establish separate cells for women's cases, free legal services, and amendment of the rape legislation

Promotion

- **Objective:** 1. Strengthen gender mainstreaming
- **Activities:** That pillar would include activities as awareness raising and advocacy for introducing gender mainstreaming in education, media, communication, and on the governmental level of political analyses and policy making

Social and Economic empowerment

- **Objective:** 1. Ensuring equal access of women and men to resources
- **Activities:** That pillar will include awareness raising and advocacy activities towards local communities, government and international donor community

Legislation and Law enforcement – crosscutting all other pillars

- **Objective:** 1. Amend discriminative for women laws and make law enforcement; 2. Ending impunity for perpetrators
- **Activities:** That pillar would include revision of existing discriminative legislation and offering amendments and enactment of social security law for women (widows, displaced, etc.), the law of election, the rape legislation and other existing laws. Broad awareness raising

Resource Mobilization and M&E

- **Objective:** 1. Enabling result oriented and transparent reporting and allocation of fund nationally and internationally 2. Enabling tracking concrete funds for NAP
- **Activities:** Establishing mechanism/channel for the M&E of governmental implementation of NAP by the civil society

VII. Action plan for the next months and identification of stakeholders and partners



Common discussion after hearing the results of the working groups

1. **Establishing political will:** Whom do we address and how, when, who, where
2. **Awareness raising/building broader consensus:** whom, who, how, when, where
3. **International donor community and political support:** who, how, when, where
4. **Activities**

1. Establishing political will – working towards the government both central and Kurdistan region

- **Objective:** Building a political will and ownership of the highest position of power to engage and endorse the work towards development of a NAP
- **Ministries and personalities to be approached, visited and invited:**
 - ✓ Council of Ministers – reaching for the Prime Minister via Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Ministers; Office of Prime Minister’s deputies - Office manager; The panel of advisors to the Prime Minister, and engaging his commitment
 - ✓ General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers - Department of Citizen’s Affairs, the Supreme Committee for Compensation for the Victims of Terrorist Acts, the Department of Committees’ Affairs
 - ✓ Human Rights Commission
 - ✓ Women Committee in the Parliament, the Commission on Security and Defense, Legal Committee, Commission on Human Rights, the Committee on Social Affairs and supportive MPs
 - ✓ Representatives of the Ministries - general manager and assistant of general manager: Education, Health, Interior, Defense, Ministry

- of Labor and Social Affairs, Justice, Culture and Youth, Ministry of Women Affairs and Ministry of Planning
- ✓ Municipal Councils and Baghdad Provincial Council
- ✓ Representatives of independent bodies (Supreme Judicial Council, the Federal Court)
- **Local Level:**
 - ✓ Members of Municipal Councils (local) and members of the Provincial Council (Committee of Women Affairs, Human Rights, Committee of Defense and Security)
- **Strategies:**
 - ✓ Using personal and formal channels
 - ✓ Addressing international community in Iraq - embassies, the EU Delegation and UN asking for their political lobbying and help from their positions of influence
 - ✓ Organizing high profile round tables with IFE-EFI and other international actors, including UN, the EU and the embassies presenting the results from the consultations workshops with other target groups
 - ✓ Fundraising for a big media campaign

2. Awareness raising and building broader consensus: consultations with networks, organizations and other target groups

- **Objectives:** 1. Ensuring a broad and inclusive consultative process; 2. Everyone's interests are ensured and included in the NAP
- **Names of additional networks and NGOs to be addressed:**
 - ✓ Iraqi Women Network
 - ✓ SILM Network
 - ✓ Organizations engaged with the Meeting (see Annex 2)
 - ✓ Organizations agreed on to be invited to work with *I-NAP 1325 Initiative*
 - ✓ Women from labor unions
- **Other target groups:**
 - ✓ Widows and women displaced from violence
 - ✓ Women who fled from groups and gangs who subjected them to trafficking
 - ✓ Women who lived the experience of prisons and detention centers
 - ✓ Members of unions and bar associations (lawyers, teachers, laborers, press and media)
 - ✓ Academics- Political Science, Faculty of Law, Sociology, researchers
 - ✓ Some areas require clerics and tribal leaders

- ✓ Persons working with the judiciary, with the family courts and law
- **Strategies:**
 - ✓ Work will be done based on the availability of the organizations. Some examples: **BWA** will organize consultations with Baghdad and Dahouk Municipal Councils, Baghdad Provincial Council and Women from ethnic minority groups: **Iraqi Al Amal Association**- in all the offices of the association in Iraq; **Organization of Women's Freedom (OWFI)** - Tikrit-Samarra with women displaced from violence, women who fled from groups and gangs who subjected them to trafficking, women who lived the experience of prisons and detention centers
 - ✓ *Meeting I-NAP 1325 Initiative* in September and draft a concrete action plan for consultation meetings and workshops with these target groups in preparation for a high profile round table in October with IFE-EFI, UN, Embassies, and the EU delegation

3. International donor community and political support

- **Objectives:** Ensuring a long term financial and political support for developing of NAP.
- **Names:**
 - ✓ European Feminist Initiative (IFE-EFI)
 - ✓ Norwegian Embassy and other embassies
 - ✓ UN-WOMEN
 - ✓ GFW
 - ✓ HIVOS
 - ✓ OSF
 - ✓ MAMACASH
- **Strategies:** Direct contacts, networking and lobbying with IFE-EFI, coordinated action, transparency

4. Activities

- **Important dates for activities:**
 - ✓ The international peace day, 21st September
 - ✓ The whole month of October – noting anniversary of UNSCR 1325
 - ✓ 16 days of activism against violence against women, 25th November to 10th December

○ **Action Plan: September – December 2012**

N:	ACTIVITY	TARGET GROUP	PLACE	TIME	RESPONSIBLE
Awareness raising, building broader consensus: Consultations with Networks and Organizations and with other target groups					
5	Awareness raising and Consultation Workshop	NGOs and networks	Sulaymaniya, Babel, Najaf, Nasiriya, Basra	September	Asuda/Friends of peace, Al Ammal, 1325 Network
3	Consultation Workshops	Displaced, returnees, victims of violence, widows, young girls, poor	Baghdad, Erbil, Tikrit-Samarra)	September	OWFI, WEO, BWA
3	Consultation Workshops/Meetings	academics, teachers, lawyers, police, tribal leaders, the social offices, community police and decision makers, media	Baghdad,	September	BWA, WEO, 1325 Network, Al Ammal
Establishing political will – working towards the government					
3	Advocacy Meetings	Ministries, government, Council of HR, MPs	Baghdad and Erbil	Aug-September	BWA, WEO coordinating with other available members of <i>I-NAP1325 Initiative</i>
1	Round Table	High level Decision Makers, Gov actors, MPs, International Community, I-NAP1325 Initiative	Baghdad	October	IFE-EFI, <i>I-NAP1325 Initiative</i>
2	Round Table	Municipalities, local self-governments and decision makers	Baghdad, Erbil, Suleimania	November, December	IFE-EFI, <i>I-NAP 1325 Initiative</i>
International donor community and political support					
4	Meetings	UN-Women, EU Delegation, UNDP	Baghdad and Erbil	September-December	IFE-EFI, <i>I-NAP 1325 Initiative</i>
3	Communication	International Donors	Sweden, Norway, Holland	August-December	IFE-EFI, <i>I-NAP 1325 Initiative</i>
3	Meetings	Embassies	Sweden, Norway, Holland	September-December	IFE-EFI, <i>I-Nap1325 Initiative</i>

ANNEX A

List of Participants

N:	NAME	ORGANISATION
1.	Amira Hassan Abdullah	Asuda, Suleymania
2.	Bandana Rana	Saathi, Kathmandu, Nepal
3.	Barween Ameen	Human Right Commission, Baghdad
4.	Boriana Jönsson	IFE-EFI, Amman Regional Office
5.	Iman Al Khafaji	Center for women's rights, Hilla
6.	Leila Al Ali	Association Najdeh, Lebanon
7.	Lilian Halls French	IFE-EFI, Paris HQ
8.	Liza Nissan Hido Al Broari	Bagdad Women's Association BWA
9.	Nussren Najj Kudiar Al Amedi	Iraqi Al Ammal Association,
10.	Rzan Othman Mohammed	Women's Leadership Institute WLI/Network 1325, Baghdad
11.	Suzan Mohammed Arif Maroof	Women Empowerment Organization, WEO, Erbil
12.	Yanar Mohamed	Organization for Women's Freedom Iraq OWFI