



Strengthening the Status of Women in Iraq in
Accordance with Resolution No. 1325

**The Role of Governmental
and Non-Governmental
Institutions, Leaders and Actors
in Strengthening the Status of
Women in Society in the Light of
Resolution No. 1325**





Introduction

This guide is published by
Acceptance of the Other Organization 2023

This guide is printed with support from CORAID

Technical Review Sarmad Mubarak

Prepared by Khedr Domely



Introduction

Although there are many sources, literature, reports and pamphlets for raising awareness about UN Resolution No. 1325 and the subsequent resolutions on enhancing the role of women in peacebuilding in conflict zones, much remains to be done, as this issue links to changing the behaviours and traditions that help to realize and strengthen the status of women in society.

In Iraq, which is one of the first countries to sign Resolution No. 1325, and in which the strategic plan was developed, an alliance and Network for Resolution No. 1325 and Women's Peace Network were established, as well as dozens of events, conferences, activities and workshops were conducted, there is still an urgent need to identify this resolution and act on it and to raise awareness about its specific aspects, its implementation and the role of the institutions concerned, each according to its specific area of competence, in implementing the themes and pillars of the resolution.

In this manual, we will discuss many important issues in order to provide many opinions and information about Resolution No. 1325 and the institutions in which action is underway to implement the Resolution in Iraq. We will also discuss the National Plan for 2021-2026 and provide a historical overview of the resolutions and declarations ensuring respect for women's rights and protecting them against violence.

In another aspect, the manual contains a set of methods explaining the mechanisms adopted by the Iraqi government for developing the second strategic plan to implement Resolution No. 1325, along with the effective contribution by civil society institutions and organizations.

The manual provides an important presentation on the mechanisms and ways in which action is required and helps strengthen women's status in the post-conflict phase in accordance with the UN vision.

A lot of information has been obtained from its sources referred to, and the contributions made by the author and many international and local organizations have been very helpful in developing curricula for training workshops on Resolution No. 1325.

This project is part of a project adopted by "Accepting Others Organization" (AOO) to develop the capacities of activists and community leaders in Diyala governorate in working on Resolution 1325, which is implemented with the support of the international organization "Cordaid". Accepting Others Organization (AOO) has extensive experience working on Resolution 1325 and has previous experience working on this decision in other cities, governorates, and various fields.

What is the Significance of the Manual?

The implementation of this manual is aimed at achieving the following objectives:

First: Expanding the knowledge of women activists and women leaders about Resolution No. 1325.

Second: Providing the knowledge and foundations on which civil society institutions and organizations require action to work on Resolution No. 1325.

Third: Expanding the knowledge of those working on women's issues on practical grounds that can be worked on in accordance with international experiences and activities.

Fourth: Filling a gap in the simple sources that have been developed according to the vision of those working to strengthen women's status in society.

An Introduction to Resolution No. 1325

Resolution No. 1325 is a resolution issued by the United Nations Security Council on 31 October 2000 on protecting women in armed conflict. It is an 18-point document focusing on four interrelated themes: women's participation in decision-making and peaceful processes, gender mainstreaming in training on peacekeeping operations, the importance of gender mainstreaming in United Nations bodies, and protecting women during conflict and strengthening their status in post-conflict situations.

The decision was issued against the background that women suffer the most in war conditions because of the social reality they live in. Statistics indicate that displaced women and children constitute 80 per cent of the world's total displaced population and that wars further impoverish women, mainly due to the murder, loss or arrest of the breadwinner. Information also indicates that rape of women and young girls occurs in conflict situations. Sometimes, rape is practised as one of the war mechanisms adopted by the conflicting parties. (official website of Resolution No. 1325).

Significance of Resolution No. 1325

This Resolution, which is issued by the Security Council, stresses the importance of women's equal and full participation as actors in the prevention and Resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding. It also reaffirms the need to implement fully international humanitarian and human rights law that protects the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts. Furthermore, the Resolution calls on the Member States to ensure women's equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and urges all parties, including the State of Palestine, to strengthen the status and participation of women and to mainstream a gender perspective into all peacebuilding operations.

Significance of Resolution No. 1325

- 1 Taking into account women's privacy and involvement in security and peacebuilding processes, especially in conflict-affected areas,
- 2 Raising awareness among peacekeeping forces, the police and the judiciary on woman's privacy in conflicts and taking measures to ensure their protection and adherence to the human rights of women and girls;
- 3 Ensuring the special needs of women and girls in conflicts;
- 4 Supporting and expanding the role and contribution of women, especially in the areas of military observers, civilian police, humanitarian and human rights observers;
- 5 Ensuring that Women in societies marked by armed conflict are well represented to make their voices heard in the conflict resolution process so that they become an important part of all levels of decision-making as equal partners in conflict prevention and resolution and sustainable peace.

Since it is a UN resolution issued by the Security Council, it is of particular importance and requires all Member States of the United Nations to do the following.

- 1 Increasing women's participation at all levels of decision-making and enhancing their roles in conflict resolution and negotiations, as well as giving them the opportunity to join the peacekeeping forces of the United Nations;
- 2 Increasing the absorptive capacity and training of peacekeeping personnel on gender issues.
- 3 Addressing gender issues in times of peace, demobilization of the army and reintegration.
- 4 Respecting the rights of the civilian population, refugees and internally displaced persons.
- 5 Protecting women from physical violence and discrimination.
- 6 Avoid amnesty for crimes committed against women during the war.

Therefore, the importance of this resolution comes as a complementary tool for other conventions dealing with women's rights, such as the CEDAW Convention and the Beijing Declaration. Member States must develop and implement national action plans to implement this resolution. Out of the 192 States that have so far implemented this resolution, only 21 are Members of the United Nations. The resolution urges Governments to take appropriate measures and actions to empower women and ensure women's opportunities to participate in decision-making mechanisms and take the decisions affecting their lives and their families about decisions and issues of war, peace and security.

Due to its mandatory nature, this resolution is of great importance. It calls on all the Member States to increase the proportion of women participating in decision-making positions, particularly in peacekeeping and security operations. This affirms the 1995 «Beijing» decisions, which led to participating states' consensus to adopt a women's quota of at least 33% in decision-making positions.

Themes and Pillars of Resolution No. 1325

Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security is based on four pillars pertinent to periods before, during or after a conflict. These main pillars of the Resolution are prevention, protection, participation, relief and reconstruction. Seen from that perspective and in addition to its activities, commitments and efforts, they complement each other and are considered strong support for the effectiveness and significance of the Resolution.



Prevention Pillar:

Prevention in Resolution No. 1325 means those obligations States must undertake to prevent all forms of violence against women, girls and gender-based violence violations and adopt mechanisms for the monitoring and reporting violations against women and girls, with perpetrators held to account in accordance with international standards. It also means the establishment of an early warning system to develop and monitor the implementation of mechanisms and procedures for preventing disputes, Such as surveillance of indicators of violence, the spread of weapons, the causes of their proliferation and their use pathways, the increase in killings of women, threats and hate speech against women, the reluctance of women to attend schools for lack of security, and the reduction of girls' school retention compared to boys, etc.

Ignoring the role of women and girls in early warning systems as stakeholders leads to the loss of their role of understanding the scene and obtaining more comprehensive information for the effectiveness of the early warning system, leading to system failure and an outbreak of conflicts. Therefore, the concept of prevention, referred to in the resolution, depends primarily on long-term programmes requiring effective government policies.



Protection Pillar

The protection pillar ensures women's and girls' safety, physical and psychological health, economic security and respect for their human rights and guarantees that domestic legislation on women and girls is in line with international conventions and standards. This means reviewing and surveying laws contradicting international conventions and declarations and developing legislation to ensure the existing mechanisms and operational structures enhance women's and girls' security and physical and psychological safety and guaranteeing them access to decent livelihoods and justice.

In this regard, UNHCR Updated Strategy on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence recommended actions in three institutional focus areas:

- 1 SGBV data collection and analysis.
- 2 Strengthening the management of SGBV programmes by investing in capacity-building and expertise.
- 3 Strengthening partnerships and coordination with UN agencies, governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and displaced communities in order to strengthen SGBV prevention and deliver effective services that limit or contribute to reducing and addressing the causes of violence against women and girls.



Participation Pillar

The participation pillar focuses on the mechanisms that need to be followed for the integration of women and girls and the inclusion of their interests in the decision-making process regarding the prevention of disputes after the settlement of disputes and the engagement of women in relief and reconstruction efforts, as well as increasing women's participation in United Nations mechanisms and other international missions related to security and peace, and increase their participation in various plans and programmes aimed at addressing violations of women's and girls' rights.

The principle of participation stresses that it is necessary to confirm that this participation covers all stages. And not just during disputes, that is to say before, during and after disputes are resolved and stresses that women's participation in Parliament, Government, leadership positions, and decision-making is of paramount importance

in changing the causes of discrimination and violence against women in all situations, Thus, without women's access to decision-making positions through effective mechanisms, it will not be possible to ensure that the gender perspective is integrated into public decisions. Consequently, there will be no opportunity to achieve equality in promoting women's positions in the decision-making process and assuming responsibilities in various levels and fields.

Relief and recovery Pillar

This pillar helps to work seriously to address and secure the needs of women and girls, especially the marginalized groups, such as victims of sexual and gender-based violence and the need to secure shelter within relief and early recovery operations and economic empowerment programmes, and to ensure that post-conflict institutions and processes for transitional justice, reconciliation and reconstruction are gender-responsive and ensure active and influential participation of women and girls in the entire process in terms of policy design, implementation, follow-up and management responsibilities.

The principle of recovery focuses on ensuring women's integration into security and justice sector reform projects, taking into account their needs and ensuring their active and influential participation in the security and justice sectors, including their participation in planning, implementation, surveillance, budgetary monitoring and provision of gender-responsive public services.

Working on this pillar helps institutions working in the field of women to involve women in the decision-making process concerning women's issues and to demand amendments or additions in accordance with the needs of women, especially in the post-conflict phase where the development of justice institutions and the institutions working in transitional justice programmes tends to address the root causes of the conflict.

The resolution raises the need to consider the implications of violence on women and protection mechanisms. It also raises the need to ensure the protection of women and to put in place mechanisms for the accountability of the violators of their rights. At the legal level, the protection of civilians in international conflicts finds its legal basis in the system of international humanitarian law: Geneva Conventions (1949), Protocols to the Geneva Conventions (1977), and the International Criminal Court, known as the Rome Convention (1998). These conventions criminalize: sexual abuse and exploitation, abduction, human trafficking, physical and psychological violence, imminent and inevitable danger to the right to life, and acts similar to slavery and forced imprisonment.

The resolution, therefore, contains specific indicators on the protection pillar, which consists in measuring the level of conformity of the national laws on the protection of women with the international standards by:

- 1 An increase in the laws that have been enacted in favour of eliminating discrimination against women in the fields of inheritance rights, sexual and gender-based violence, and rights relating to marriage.
- 2 Indicators for measuring the level of increased access to justice for women whose rights have been violated by: counting and regulating the number of cases investigated concerning the number of reported cases, documenting the number of cases sentenced in relation to the number of cases investigated, and documenting and identifying sentences for crimes of violence against women and girls.

With regard to indicators for the prevention pillar, which are an important factor in reducing tension and consolidating post-conflict peace and security within the societies, engaging women in making decisions relevant to peace and security is a preventive measure. So, their presence shall be reflected in the relevant legislation by integrating the gender approach into policies and their applications. The most prominent examples of preventive measures include education on a culture of peace and human rights, developing the capacity of members of the armed forces and educating them about the concept of gender and women's participation in post-conflict decision-making mechanisms, particularly with regard to community-based initiatives.

The indicators of the relief and recovery pillar focus on ensuring that all members of society have access to security, food, health care, housing and other basic needs, especially for women. Surveys of the social and age structure of the total beneficiaries need to be achieved by adopting a gender approach to determine the exact needs of different groups.

Accountability and complaint mechanisms must be in place at this stage; provided that the employees should be women of high experience and competence in handling complaints.

As for participation indicators, they focus on a short-term level by developing women's abilities to participate and, in the medium term, by preparing leaders for participation in decision-making positions, thereby organizing and supporting the processes of women's participation in management and assumption of responsibilities, supporting women's participation in elections as voters and candidates and contributing to awareness-raising and election observation processes, as well as activating their role to participate in decision-making positions concerning women and at various levels. This indicator is exemplified particularly by developing the legislation and providing opportunities to strengthen the status of women in decision-making processes.



International Resolutions on the Strengthening the Status and Rights of Women in the Light of Resolution No. 1325

Resolutions supplementing resolution 1325 on women, peace and security and resolutions of the United Nations Security Council supplementing the resolution are a contribution to addressing a wide range of principles and directives related to the improvement and strengthening of the status of women during and after conflicts and integrating gender perspective, namely, the equal roles of men and women into different aspects of life, particularly in relation to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. They emphasize women's full and equal participation in decision-making and peacebuilding, the need to develop an appropriate and effective legislative and institutional environment to prosecute violators of the rights and dignity of women and the need to develop their effective protection mechanisms and their effective and equal participation in legislation, policy and practical application. Ongoing work on the implementation of the provisions of the resolution is, therefore, the basis for the adoption of a series of other Security Council resolutions as additional resolutions on women, which are the policy instruments for this plan from the local to the global level, from intergovernmental bodies, such as the United Nations, to local women's movements and in response to the continued advocacy of civil society.

("Guidebook on "Covering Women Peace and Security Issues", Syrian Female Journalists Network, Rola Asad and Milia Edmoni).)

Resolution No. 1820

Resolution No. 1820 was the first Resolution of the International Security Council in 2008 to recognize conflict-related sexual violence and consider its prevention an essential element of international peace-keeping and security. It notes that sexual violence in conflict constitutes a war crime and demands that parties to armed conflict immediately take appropriate measures to protect women and girls from all forms of sexual violence. The Resolution Notes that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity, or a constitutive act concerning genocide. It stresses the need to exclude crimes of sexual violence from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes. The Resolution is the first Security Council resolution acknowledging conflict-related sexual violence as a tactic of war and considering its prevention an essential element of global peace-keeping and security.

Resolution No.1888

The Security Council's resolution 1888 of 2009 is of great importance. It focuses on ending impunity as an essential factor for ending disputes and avoiding returning to them. The present resolution follows up on Security Council resolution 1820 by strengthening the tools and mechanisms for implementing this resolution, identifying qualified leaders, and building expertise in judicial responses and reporting mechanisms. In addition, it mandates peacekeeping missions to protect women and children from sexual violence, particularly during armed conflicts, bearing in mind that war occupations fall within the same protection in international law. In light of this resolution, the Office of the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflicts was established. The office is headed by a Special Representative as United Nations political speaker and advocate on conflict-related sexual violence. In addition, she chairs the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict network.

Resolution No. 1889

This resolution was adopted in 2009 in order to accelerate progress in the implementation of Resolution No. 1325, by which the Security Council, through this resolution, requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit a set of indicators for use at the international level for the follow-up on United Nations resolution 1325. It serves as a basis for the submission of reports by United Nations mechanisms, regional and international organizations and States Members of the United Nations in the course of implementing International Security Council resolution 1325. This resolution addresses, in particular, women's exclusion from early recovery, peace-building and lack of appropriate planning and funding for their needs. This resolution also emphasizes the development of a strategy for increasing the numbers of women in decision-making and dispute-resolution processes and taking possible measures to ensure women's and girls' equal access to education to enhance their participation in decision-making. In addition, this resolution developed women's inclusion at all stages of peace processes. Finally, the resolution called on the Secretary-General to formulate indicators to measure the implementation of resolution 1325 at the international level.

Resolution No. 1960

Security Council resolution 1960 was adopted in 2010 as an accountability system for conflict-related sexual violence. It calls for systematic monitoring and reporting arrangements to increase the efficiency of tracking the extent and gravity of the war crime of sexual and gender-based violence, in which the names of persons and armed groups suspected of committing crimes of sexual violence in disputes are identified. The Security Council is empowered to take action and sanctions against States, groups and persons to put an end to the continuation of this type of crime. The most important procedures are: first: monitoring, analysis and reporting on conflict-related sexual violence;

Resolution No. 2106

This resolution was passed in 2013. It emphasizes the importance of gender equality and women's political, social and economic empowerment in efforts to prevent sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and to combat impunity for sexual violence crimes. This resolution focuses on the accountability of perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and disputes situations and on the inclusion of a number of sexual violence crimes in the Statute of the International Criminal Court (Rome Statute) and the Statutes of specialized international tribunals. It believes that rape and other serious forms of sexual violence in armed conflicts are war crimes. and calls on Member States to comply with their relevant obligations to combat impunity by investigating and prosecuting persons under their jurisdiction for such crimes and the importance of developing a "comprehensive approach" to transitional justice in dispute and post-conflict situations encompasses the full scope of judicial and non-judicial measures. This international resolution also emphasizes that women's empowerment and their equal leadership role in various political and economic aspects must be strengthened.

Resolution No. 2122

This resolution was adopted in 2013 and emphasized accountability in the implementation of resolution 1325, the most important of which was the decision to conduct a high-level review in 2015 to assess progress at the international, regional and national levels in the implementation of resolution No. 1325. In addition, the present resolution addresses the persistent gaps in the implementation of the Agenda for Women, Peace and Security, establishing gender equality and women's empowerment as critical to maintaining international peace and security and acknowledging the most diverse implications of all violations in conflict and dispute situations on women and girls. It also calls for the harmonized application of the women's, security and peace agenda through the work of the Security Council. Finally, the resolution also stresses the importance of giving more attention to the issue of women's assumption of leadership roles and their participation in settlement of disputes and peace-building.

Resolution No. 2242

This Resolution was adopted in 2015 as part of the Security Council's follow-up to efforts to implement resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions, by which the Security Council welcomed efforts to increase the number of women in the armies and police forces during United Nations peacekeeping operations and urged further efforts in this regard. This Resolution sets the agenda for women's security and peace in relation to various global challenges such as violent extremism, climate change, and growing refugee populations. In addition, the Resolution addresses the ongoing obstacles to the process of its implementation, including financing and institutional reforms and achieving greater integration between the agenda for women, peace and security, combating terrorism and countering extremism and its implications for women and girls, and ensuring women's increased representation in all areas of decision-making in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of disputes. The Resolution also calls for effectively integrating women into the negotiating parties' delegations to the peace talks. Furthermore, it encourages the active participation of civil society organizations in international and regional meetings on women, peace and security, and participation in policy and programme development, prioritization, coordination and implementation processes and further integration of programmes on women, peace and security into strategic plans. (International resolutions on women's security and peace 2017, Manal Zater, Training curriculum and guide to resolution 1325 and supplementary resolutions, Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance 2020)

Resolution No. 2467

The UN Security Council adopted resolution 2467 in 2019. This resolution focuses on calling on all parties to armed conflict to cease all acts of sexual violence immediately and advocating for those parties' specific and timely commitments to combat sexual violence. In this resolution, the Security Council welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General, his Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Panel of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence, and the time-bound commitments of all parties to conflict and plans to prevent all acts and forms of sexual violence in conflict and encourages the appointment of high-level civilian, military and police coordinators, as needed, responsible for the implementation of those commitments. The resolution also encouraged national authorities to strengthen legislation to enhance accountability for sexual violence. In addition, it stressed the crucial role of States' domestic investigations and judicial systems in preventing and eliminating sexual violence in conflict and ensuring that those responsible were held accountable. Finally, the resolution encouraged further strengthening efforts to monitor and document sexual violence in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict.

Resolution No. 2493

The Security Council adopted this Resolution on women, security and peace on 29 October 2019. The Resolution urges all States to abide by other previous resolutions of the Council in this regard, which protect women and girls and their full participation in peace processes and promote all women's civil, political and economic rights to protect their full participation. The Resolution also calls for appointing gender protection advisers and women's active participation in electoral preparations, disarmament, judicial reforms and broader post-conflict reconstruction processes. (Security Council Resolution No. 1325 and its supplementary resolutions, A special knowledge guide on integrating it into the working approaches of security and media institutions, and civil society organizations' programmes, Abaad Organization, Beirut 2020).

**International Charters
and Treaties Issued
by the United Nations
and its Affiliated
Organizations and the
European Union on
Women's and Peace and
Security Issues According
to the Chronology of
their Issuance:**



United Nations Charter, 26 June 1945

The United Nations Charter is the first international treaty to refer, in specific terms, to equal rights for men and women. The Charter also stipulates that succeeding generations must be saved from the scourge of war while emphasizing faith in human rights, the dignity and worth of the human person, and the equal rights of men and women. To these ends, concerted forces should be required to maintain international peace and security.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1948

The Declaration rejected discrimination on the basis of sex in article 2, slavery and enslavement in article 4, and torture and cruel treatment or punishment in article 5. It also refers in article 16 to the age of marriage, which is the age of puberty, and equal rights, during marriage and at its dissolution. Furthermore, article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates: «No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.»

Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Situations of Emergency and Armed Conflict, 16 December 1966

The Declaration stressed that members concerned with an armed conflict must undertake all efforts to protect women and children from the suffering of war. All necessary measures must be taken to prevent any of the following crimes: harassment, torture, punishment and violence, focusing on the civilian population, especially women and children.

General Assembly resolution No. 3519, on women's participation in international peace and security operations, 15 December 1975

Resolution No. 3519 calls upon all governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly women's organizations and women's groups, to intensify their efforts to strengthen peace, eliminate all forms of colonialism and end the policy and practice of apartheid and all forms of racism, racial discrimination, aggression, occupation and foreign domination.

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 3 September 1981

Through 30 articles, the Convention calls for the elimination of any discrimination against women in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. It explains the necessary actions and measures to ensure women's enjoyment of their rights worldwide. CEDAW covers violent actions in the public and private sectors and recommends that states combat and address violence against women, including legal protection, prevention, and reporting.

The application of the Optional Protocol to the Convention began in 1999, which promotes the application of and adherence to the International Charter and allows parties - non-governmental - and individuals or institutions to submit written complaints of violations of rights directly to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which includes 23 experts in this field. It also gives the Committee the power to investigate violations and violations of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Of course, these procedures are optional and are available only when accepted by the State concerned. The Committee also makes general recommendations and suggestions to States regarding articles or topics of the Convention.

The CEDAW Convention is significant because it covers all women's economic, social, political and civil rights and explicitly calls for and defines the necessary measures to achieve equality in all areas. It also calls for temporary measures (positive discrimination), obliges States to modify prevailing patterns of behaviour (social/cultural), and imposes standards of equality and non-discrimination in both private and public life.

General Assembly Resolution on Women's Participation in the Promotion of International Peace and Cooperation, 3 December 1982

In paragraph 12, the Resolution emphasized the need to take all necessary measures to provide practical opportunities for the effective participation of women in promoting international peace and cooperation, economic development and social progress. To that end: work should be done to promote an equitable representation of women in governmental and non-governmental functions, to promote equality of opportunities for women to enter diplomatic service, and to appoint or nominate women, on an equal basis with men, as members of delegations to national, regional or international meetings



**World Conference
on Human Rights,
Vienna Declaration,
25 June 1993**

World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna Declaration, 25 June 1993

The Declaration affirmed that the human rights of women and the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. Furthermore, the World Conference on Human Rights expressed its dismay at massive human rights violations, especially in the form of genocide, "ethnic cleansing," and systematic rape of women in war, creating a mass exodus of refugees and displaced persons. While strongly condemning such abhorrent practices, the World Conference reiterated the call that perpetrators of such crimes be punished, and such practices are immediately stopped.

The Declaration stressed the need for women during a conflict to enjoy equal rights with men, whether combatants or protected persons, in addition to special treatment based on their sex. Women must also be protected against any bodily violation through rape, forced prostitution or any form of degrading violence. Furthermore, children under 15 years of age, pregnant women, mothers and children under seven years of age must enjoy any preferential treatment enjoyed by the State's population.

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 17 July 1998

During the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, held in Rome, Italy, Amnesty International began pursuing the process of drafting the Rome Statute in 1993, when the International Legal Committee was working on the draft. The draft was submitted to the United Nations General Assembly in 1994.

Subsequently, the organization pursued its efforts and contributed during the political process to review the International Legal Committee's draft. The Special Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, organized by the General Assembly of the United Nations, held two meetings in 1995 and continued to work through the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of the International Criminal Court and held six meetings from 1996 to 1998.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, October 1995

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, emphasizing the fundamental principle that the human rights of women and the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. The Platform for Action also emphasizes that women share common concerns that can be addressed only by working together and in partnership with men towards the common goal of gender equality. Furthermore, it respects and values the diversity of women's situations and conditions.

Among the strategic objectives of the Platform's armed conflicts are an increase in the participation of women in conflict resolution and decision-making process, protection of women living in situations of armed conflict and other women who are living under foreign occupation and reduction of excessive military expenditures and control of the availability of armaments, in addition to the promotion of non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduction of the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations, promotion of women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace, providing protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women, and finally, assisting the women of the colonies and nonautonomous territories.

Security Council press statement on International Women's Day, 8 March 2000

The statement emphasized the suffering of societies in general from the consequences of armed conflicts and terrorism. Still, it acknowledged that women and the girl child were the most affected in such circumstances and that women were the majority of the world's refugees. Furthermore, the statement considered women's role vital in times of armed conflict and deteriorating social conditions as they strive to maintain social order amid conflict. Finally, the statement emphasized women's political and economic empowerment and that they must be accurately represented at all levels of decision-making so that they could take the opportunity to play their role in providing and maintaining peace.

Windhoek Declaration (Namibia Action Plan) on gender mainstreaming in multiple peace support operations, adopted on 31 May 2000

The Declaration emphasized that equal access and participation by women and men should be ensured in the area of conflict at all levels and stages of the peace process, adding that “In negotiations for a ceasefire and/or peace agreements, women should be an integral part of the negotiating team and process.” Furthermore, the Declaration noted that the United Nations must set an example by rapidly increasing the number of senior female civilian personnel in peace support operations, integrating a gender perspective into all national and regional training curricula and courses for peaceful support operations and providing funding for the appointment of gender specialists in each mission to serve as a gender reference; in addition to entrusting the Special Representative of the Secretary-General with the responsibility of ensuring the implementation of the gender mainstreaming process throughout the mission’s components and segments, and employing all available means to raise public awareness of the importance of gender mainstreaming in support of peace processes.

European Parliament Resolution on Participation of Women in Peaceful Conflict Resolution, adopted on 30 November 2000

The Resolution calls for promoting equal participation of women in diplomatic conflict resolution and reconstruction initiatives at all levels, taking into account gender when undertaking initiatives related to peace and security. The Resolution also condemned acts of violence against women and children in armed conflicts, such as rape, forced fertilization, sexual slavery and forced sterilization. The Resolution urged Member States to amend article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Protocol to affirm that such violations were a serious breach of the Geneva treaties. The European Parliament’s Resolution also urged Member States to ratify the Rome Convention, which allowed for the intervention of the International Criminal Court, and called on its Member States as well as its missions to integrate a gender perspective in the planning of refugee camps and to help secure the right of refugee women to self-determination by providing appropriate economic opportunities and equal representation in refugee committees and other decision-making bodies within refugee camps. (United Nations/Women website ‘ Also, the mandates and legal basis of peacekeeping operations... United Nations website..... The ICC website or a review of an introduction to the ICC (Amnesty International...))

Sustainable Development Plan and Resolution No. 1325

The Sustainable Development Plan for 2030 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, adopted in New York in 2015, contains 17 goals for sustainable development and 169 targets for many issues, including poverty eradication, food security, improved nutrition, gender equality and justice for all. Under the Plan, States agreed that the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women was not only a human right but a “decisive factor” in accelerating sustainable development. States Members of the United Nations have committed to these goals, which seek to formulate and guide policies and finance development over the coming years and identify indicators and targets for each objective to be incorporated into national plans and policies. The 2030 Development Plan encourages States to undertake regular national reviews to measure progress towards achieving their goals. Discussions on the post-2015 agenda concluded that the new framework for development should not only promote sustainability and poverty reduction but also that peaceful societies and just and rational governance should be based on the goals set out in Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Plan (Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels), which emphasized the importance of non-marginalization for sustainable development, access to justice for all and the building of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. (Guide to Security Council resolution and its supplementary resolutions, Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance 2020)

Universal Periodic Review

The universal periodic review process is a civilian process driven by States’ civil society institutions under the auspices of the Human Rights Council. It provides all States with the opportunity to announce the actions they have taken to improve the human rights situation in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations. The objective of this mechanism is to improve the human rights situation in all countries and to address human rights violations wherever they exist, as the Human Rights Council, through this mechanism, attaches great importance to women’s issues, violations against women, security and peace through recommendations to the Council in the context of periodic national reviews. Recommendations are then made for action to reduce the violations diagnosed at various levels. (UN Security Council Resolution No. 1325 and its supplementary Resolution - A Special Knowledge Guide on Ways to Integrate it into the Working Approaches of Security and Media Institutions, and Civil Society Organization Programs, Abaad Organization, Beirut 2020).

Women's Leadership Status in Post-conflict and Peace Processes

Women, all over the world, including women peacebuilders and young women at the local level, continue to be highly excluded from official and non-official peace operations and their implementation, and the broad efforts to achieve sustainable peace, despite their continued contributions to crisis prevention and conflict resolution, mediation in peace processes, despite evidence that peace processes that ensure women's participation are likely to be successful and lead to better and more sustainable agreements. This is because harmful gender norms, lack of political will, narrowing of civic participation, reprisals against women peacebuilders and multiple forms of discrimination create persistent barriers to women's and girls' full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in peace, security and humanitarian work. (Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action Charter, Generation Equality Forum).

Women's empowerment in crisis and conflict is vital. They make up 50 per cent of the world's population and must therefore be part of the solution.

In situations of armed conflict and crisis, it is necessary to reach and consult with different women and women's organizations on a regular basis. Women were not a homogenous group in any country, and it was essential to take into account ethnic, religious, linguistic and other identities. One should not expect all women to have the same mentality. For example, women professionals' views, concerns and needs in urban areas are likely to differ from those of women farmers and small entrepreneurs in rural areas. Treat women seriously. There will be women in various aspects of the conflict, as their views, perspectives, needs and concerns will sometimes differ from men's.

In many conflict-affected countries, there will be local women's peace initiatives, often not in the capital but in the affected areas. It is important to reach out to, consult with and support these local women's efforts to end hostilities and promote dialogue and understanding. This is also an obligation of Security Council resolution No. 1325 (2000) para. 8.

Women play a variety of roles in complex and multi-track peace processes. They can sit at the formal negotiating table, on a technical committee or subcommittee, or could be outside the talks and engage as civil society actors. Women's expertise and civil society representatives are essential in ensuring that new constitutions, legal provisions, mechanisms and institutions include women's concerns, perspectives and needs, as is the case with the reform of the courts, the police, the security sector and other government institutions. Women's empowerment in crisis and conflict must be one of the most important tools in the peace process. Using women mediators or women-based networks can be a good starting point to make leaders realize the importance of engaging all populations. (<https://www.un.org/ar/chronicle/article/19964>)

Resolution 1325 aims to develop a new vision consistent with women's perspectives in the period before, during and after conflict, empowering women to contribute to the resolution of disputes, ensuring the prevention of violence and discrimination against women, prosecuting its perpetrators, ensuring women's full participation in the formulation of peace-building initiatives and urging States to prepare a national plan of action to implement the resolution at the national level. The overwhelming majority of those affected by violence are women. Thus the resolution reflects an understanding of the impact of conflicts on women and girls and the differences in their impact between women and men, which requires changes in the international community's approach to prevent and resolve conflicts and build and maintain peace. (Guide to Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security and its supplementary resolutions, prepared by Dr. Isam Abdeen, Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance, 2020).

Women's leadership status can be strengthened in post-conflict situations if the following tracks are taken into account

Track 1: communicating to ensure services for those affected and victims of conflict - children and wounded women - as it requires communicating with women actors and leaders in society in order to ensure that services for those affected are appropriately reached and in accordance with their necessary needs, which are primarily sensitive to women's needs.

Track 2: Dealing and communicating with security leadership centres to monitor intervention and work to establish security - Sometimes, only suggestions are made to consider women's views and status in this field.

Track 3: Focusing on the quality of victims' rehabilitation programmes - psychotherapy and community integration projects - provided they are not to be approved, organized and implemented without the participation of specialized women.

Track 4: Communicating with conflict leaders from the various parties about their policies and knowing the status of women in those policies. This is intended to be directly or through women's groups and committees, women's unions or women's organizations within political parties or organizations working in the field of women's rights.

Track 5: Examine ways to enhance women's status in reconciliation committees, compensation committees, and peace and stability committees, which in itself is the essence of Resolution No. 1325.

Track 6: Work to develop and strengthen women's status in internal security forces, whether in post-conflict internal security restructuring processes in development and expansion plans or the formation of new structures such as

community policing, as in Iraq's experience and many other countries.

Track 7: Women's status in peace processes, which are direct, both at the local grassroots level and by institutions involved in the implementation of peace programmes in post-conflict areas.

Track 8: Coordinating and cooperating with field and community leaders to discuss abuses and violations committed against women, whether in the stages of displacement or after the return.

Track 9: Communicating with organizations working in the field of women - federations, trade unions and community centres working on women's issues - for the post-conflict phase. (Training manual on enhancing the status of women in the post-conflict phase - Khader Dumley 2019 Aswad project, Dohuk)



**National Action
Plan for the
Implementation of
Resolution No. 1325**



National Action Plan for the Implementation of Resolution No. 1325

The Iraqi Government adopted the National Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 - Women, Peace, Security - in April 2014 as part of its approval of the National Strategy for the Advancement of Iraqi Women 2014-2018. As a result, Iraq has become the first country in the Middle East and North Africa to adopt a national plan. This was confirmed by the United Nations envoy to Iraq, Mr. Nikolai Mladenov.

The action plan was prepared and developed in partnership between civil society and decision-makers by a national multisectoral working group that included members of the Federal Government and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, representatives of some ministries, members of the Federal Council of Representatives, legal experts and the 1325 Initiative, a group of organizations working to activate the Security Council resolution in Iraq.

= The National Action Plan is based on the principle of sexual equality and universal human rights of women and the provisions of international women's rights clauses in line with the national strategies approved by the Federal Government and the Kurdistan Region Government to promote women's rights and address violence against women.

= The NAP included specific and clear objectives, specific actions, expected results and objectively verified measurable indicators, constrained by a time frame and distribution of responsibilities, tasks and evaluation of the availability or lack of funding.

= This work was contributed by 17 ministries and institutions, with 11 governmental institutions from the Federal Government and 6 from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, where follow-up units from ministries and the aforementioned actor were formed for the purpose of their implementation.

= The emergency plan focused on three main pillars: protection, prevention and participation, where the principles of social and economic empowerment as well as legislation and laws, were incorporated into the work of legislators and relevant bodies and highlighted the vital importance of the following issues:

- Women's participation in decision-making and peacebuilding.
- Women's participation (voter and candidate) in elections.
- Provision of health services and psychosocial support to women victims of violence.
- Building a culture of gender equality through education and awareness-raising targeting both sexes.
- Protecting and empowering displaced women.
- Increasing opportunities and promoting women's employment, including displaced women.
- Amending discriminatory laws and improving the judicial response to women victims of violence.

(Guide to Training on Resolution 1325 and Iraq's Second National Action Plan - Khidher Domly 2020)

The concentration of the Second National Plan was on strategic objectives, which focused on the following:

- Developing mechanisms to ensure women's equal proportional representation and full participation in all State authorities and legislative, executive and judicial decision-making positions at the local and national levels
- Ensuring a fair proportional representation and full participation of women in all reconciliation committees, peacebuilding and conflict-resolution negotiations, councils of achieving civil peace and Community peace, and dialogue and social cohesion teams.
- Increasing women's effective and proportional participation of women in decision-making positions at the local and national levels and in all reconciliation committees and peacebuilding negotiations and initiatives.
- The adoption of a quota for women in the executive branch as a positive measure to allow women to play their role in the decision-making process.
- Harmonizing national legislation with international standards and mechanisms for women's human rights, including Security Council resolution 1325, repealing or amending texts and laws that violate women's rights and enacting legislation that protects and strengthens their status.

Second National Action Plan for the Activation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security 2021-2024

General introduction:

Iraq initiated the preparation of a national plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 as the first Arab State to adopt a national plan on women, security and peace. The plan was approved by the Iraqi Council of Ministers as part of the national strategy for the advancement of Iraqi women in April 2014. The plan aims at increasing women's participation in decision-making positions and in reconciliation committees, peacebuilding negotiations and amending legislation and laws to ensure prevention and protection against violence of gender-based violence during and after conflict.

The Second National Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security) was adopted by the Iraqi Government in December 2020, based on the principle of gender equality, women's fundamental rights in line with international instruments and relevant UN resolutions, as well as strategies approved by the Federal Government and the Kurdistan Region to enhance women's vital and active role in the development and countering violence against them. In this context, the Second National Plan included clear objectives, specific

actions, expected results, measurable time-bound indicators, and the distribution of responsibilities and tasks to ensure follow-up and evaluation, including the provisions of the joint statement on sexual violence during the conflict, which was signed between Iraq and the United Nations Secretary-General's Representative.

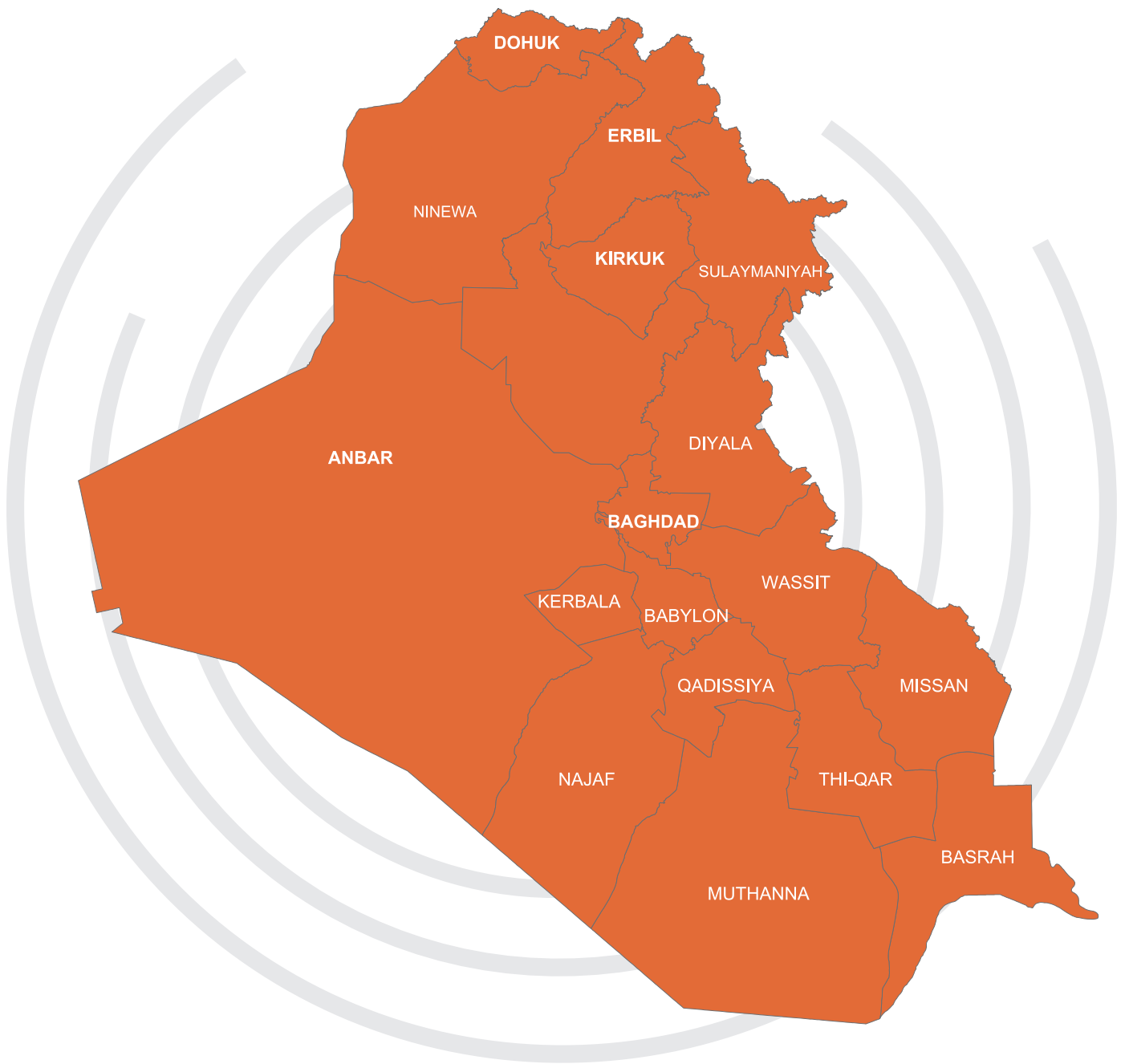
With regard to the conflict in Iraq, the Security Council adopted resolution 2379 on 21 September 2017, in which the Security Council decided to establish a specialized investigation team to support local efforts to hold ISIL accountable by collecting, preserving and storing evidence in the Republic of Iraq concerning acts that might amount to war crimes and genocide committed by ISIL, in addition to resolution 2299, in which the Security Council expressed concern at Iraq's failure to implement resolution 1325 due to the lack of funding. In July 2019, the Security Council adopted resolution 2467, which affirmed the continued and full implementation of resolution 1325 and its supplementary resolutions, addressing obstacles to their continued implementation and recalling the commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In addition, it reaffirmed the obligations of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW and its Optional Protocol, and the obligations applicable to parties to armed conflicts under the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols thereto).

Plans and Strategies to Strengthen Women's Status in Iraq

The Iraqi Government has adopted a number of strategies relating to the basic pillars referred to in resolution 1325 concerning the protection of women from all forms of gender-based violence and their increased participation in decision-making positions. In addition, a number of plans have been developed to respond to women's needs during the conflict from 2013 to 2021.

The National Strategy for the Advancement of Women

The strategy adopted in April 2014 aims to empower women and enhance their participation in policymaking and decision-making in all areas through the creation of an enabling environment for women's political, economic, social and family empowerment, promoting their knowledge and skill-building, helping them enjoy a high quality of health through the stages of life, ensuring decent and protected employment opportunities for women, and facilitating access to decision-making positions in political and economic institutions. approved the Strategy to Combat Violence against Women in March 2013.





**National Strategy for
the Development of
Women's Conditions
in the Kurdistan
Region 2017-2027**

National Strategy for the Development of Women's Conditions in the Kurdistan Region 2017-2027

The strategy adopted in November 2016 aims to enable women to enjoy their human rights in all areas of education, health and economic participation and participation in decision-making and access to and control over resources; Through the creation of an enabling environment for women's political, economic and social empowerment, along with the establishment of an umbrella dedicated to national legislation and laws due to their interconnectedness and impact on women's status in private and public life.

National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women

The Iraqi Government, in cooperation with United Nations agencies and local and international experts, initiated work on a comprehensive national strategy to combat violence that seeks to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region. The strategy is designed to achieve a number of long-term objectives by providing legal protection for ensuring the enactment and application of legislation and establishing appropriate institutions, as well as ensuring a safe environment for women survivors in order to protect them from all risks and threats of gender-based violence, in addition to improving the quality and level of multidisciplinary services and sectors needed by women survivors of violence during and after emergencies. Finally, in order to change behaviours and systems that promote discrimination and violence against women and gender-based violence and to prevent and reduce its impact on women, the family and society, the Federal Government approved the Strategy to Combat Violence against Women in March 2013.

National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women in the Kurdistan Region 2017-2027

The Kurdistan Regional Government, in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agency, the representatives of the Government's official institutions, several NGOs, and Women's rights activists, has taken the initiative to develop a national strategy to address the long-term phenomenon of violence against women and establish an appropriate framework for a serious and appropriate action plan and programming the work to ensure the elimination of the negative phenomena in society in general, particularly those related to women's persecution and repression. As a result, the Regional Government endorsed the Strategy to Combat Violence against Women in 2012 and updated it for the years 2017-2027.

National Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 1325 in Iraq:

The action plan aims to increase women's participation in decision-making positions, reconciliation committees and peacebuilding negotiations, to amend legislation and laws, to empower women and strengthen their capacities, to ensure equal access for women and men to resources (social and economic empowerment), to amend discriminatory laws against women and implement the amended laws and to address impunity (legislation and laws). In 2016 work was initiated on the preparation of the Consolidated Operational Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 for the period 2016-2017.

The 2015 Emergency Implementation Plan for Displaced and Conflict-Affected Women within the framework of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of Resolution 1325:

The emergency plan is designed to address women's needs and protect them in conflict and displacement zones. The plan is based on three main pillars: protection, prevention and participation. However, the emergency plan focused only on the pillars of participation and protection, as a priority and a quick phase need and neglected cases of punishment of crimes against humanity and women, with a one-year time limit set for its implementation.

National Strategy for the Advancement of Women

The Strategy identified a weakness in women's role in the peace industry as one of the root causes of the national security problem. It emphasized the prevalence of violence against women due to the security situation in Iraq. However, the Strategy did not address the importance of women's involvement in the security sector in order to develop an efficient security system, and there is no reference to responding to crimes and violations against women and their security needs. The Strategy is devoid of any initiative aimed at raising awareness of the gender issues of security sector personnel and ensuring that the security needs of women and men are met, especially since the inclusion of these issues enhances the efficiency of the security sector, which is the Strategy's aim. Women are mentioned only within the cultural and social objectives, where attention is paid to vulnerable groups and gender.



Strategy for combating violent extremism leading to terrorism

This strategy was issued by the Iraqi National Security Council in 2019. It included two parts, the first dealing with the social environment and the threat of extremism to it, whereas the second identified four main objectives and means of achieving them. The first objective was to develop an environment conducive to centrism and non-extremism. In contrast, the second objective emphasized the importance of community rehabilitation and integrating the groups exposed to conditions leading to extremism. Goals 3 and 4 focused on preparing citizens who believed in moderation and the consolidation of patriotism.

National Action Plan for Reforming Security Sector

The plan focused on law enforcement and justice for all Iraqis in order to provide the best security services with highly trained professional defence and security forces equipped with state-of-the-art equipment, controlled and subjected to effective accountability. Although none of Iraq's security sector reform objectives addressed gender issues, with the exception of the latter, the National Security Council issued an administrative order to establish a Division to Combat the Trafficking in Human Beings. Still, a Women's Empowerment Order was subsequently issued, with all relevant institutions and services obliged to involve women in all security plans and strategies.

Plan of Implementation of the Joint Statement on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Prevention and Response between the Iraqi Government and the United Nations in March 2018

The Iraqi Government signed a joint statement with the United Nations on prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence in September 2016, which includes six priority areas to which the United Nations agencies and the Government of Iraq committed themselves. The commitments call for supporting legislative and policy reforms to strengthen protection and response to sexual violence crimes and facilitating documentation, return and reintegration of displaced persons and ensuring accountability for sexual violence crimes and ensuring the provision of services and livelihood support, and compensation for survivors and children born as a result of rape crimes and involving clan elders, religious leaders, civil society and women human rights defenders in the prevention of crimes of sexual violence, as well as ensuring that considerations of sexual violence are adequately covered and taken into account in the work of Iraq's Counter-Terrorism Service, including the enhancement of the role of women in counter-terrorism efforts.



**National Action Plan
for Implementation
of Resolution No.
1325**

Background on the First National Action Plan for the Activation of Resolution No. 1325

Despite the achievements of the First National Plan, its implementation faced several challenges, most notably the invasion of a number of Iraqi governorates by ISIL and the security complexities that hindered the implementation at several levels, as well as political attractions and changes - both governmental and parliamentary - and non-budgetary allocation. The first plan also faced operational challenges related to measurement and monitoring, as there needed to be a mid-implementation audit. The absence of baseline data made it difficult to measure the rate of progress towards the plan's objectives, as well as difficulties in collecting data, in general, despite the cooperation of all entities and institutions charged with the implementation of the first plan. At the institutional structural level, successive and frequent changes in leadership and follow-up teams have slowed down implementation. The report of the First National Plan concluded that the stereotyping of women and their role in society was a major obstacle at both the State and local levels, with a discriminatory culture and legislation that must be amended. Building on many lessons learned, the report of the first plan recommends adherence to the principle of partnership by organizing consultations on the largest official and community scale in the development of the second plan of action. It also stresses the importance of improving the monitoring and evaluation framework by applying appropriate tools based on qualitative and quantitative indicators, institutionally applied to ensure efficient and continuous data collection from the field where activities are carried out among their targets. The report also recommended that efforts should be coordinated between government agencies and civil society, and among international implementation partner organizations and United Nations agencies, as well as the development of an information plan for the master plan that will identify the national framework on Iraqi women, peace and security and highlight key activities and success stories, particularly in communities where the plan's targets are women and girls in conflict situations.

National Action Plan for Implementation of Resolution No. 1325

The previous plan was designed in response to conditions in which Iraq enjoyed relative stability, followed by a phase of the conflict which forced stakeholders to deactivate it in favour of the emergency plan. Today, Iraq is in the post-conflict or recovery phase, which requires the design of a new plan tailored to this phase's needs. There are also other reasons why the preparation of a second plan for resolution 1325 is urgent at this stage, including the expiration of the deadline for the first national plan (2014-2018), the existence of several gaps that need to be avoided in a second plan, such as its lack of a monitoring and evaluation framework and a time limit for the completion of activities, access to outputs, lack of the ability to identify the authority responsible for implementation and budget, and lack of budget. The first plan also lacks what can be described as a connection to society, resulting in a low level of awareness of rights, protection, violations, laws, and the role of services and service providers. Moreover, the slowdown in implementing actions that could ensure greater participation of women, despite their inclusion in the previous plan, has led to a decline in the proportion of women's participation in the federal government. Therefore, an international dimension obliges Iraq to prepare a second plan for resolution 1325, consisting of subsequent international resolutions, in which there are recommendations on the conflict in Iraq, including three recommendations on sexual violence for which the first plan had not included measures, and the Republic of Iraq's joint statement with the United Nations on preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence. All this has prompted reflection on the launching of the second national action plan for the implementation of the Security Council resolution, which can contribute significantly to supporting recovery trends and ensure women's participation in humanitarian response, post-conflict reconstruction and all efforts to stop violence, create an environment that fuels social cohesion and maintain and strengthen peace and security. The draft of the second plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 for the years 2020 - 2024 was developed through consultative sessions held in Baghdad, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah and adopted a participatory approach that ensures the participation of all stakeholders in the Federal Government, the Kurdistan Regional Government and representatives of civil society organizations. The process of writing the plan has gone through several phases: a national team for the implementation of Resolution No. 1325 was formed by Decree No. 138 of 2017 under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers and members of 25 ministries, bodies and institutions in the Federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government, and representatives of civil society organizations, and a coordinating committee for the National Team consisting of 6 representatives of ministries and bodies of the Federal Government and 3 representatives of the Kurdistan Regional Government were formed.

Each of the three strategic pillars of the second national plan has a number of components (outcomes) with which the pillar is completed.

The first pillar, “participation”, enhances women’s participation in leadership and decision-making that promotes peacebuilding and peacekeeping. This pillar includes women’s active participation in achieving and sustaining peace by engaging in influential peacebuilding decision-making positions in the security sectors and justice systems and women’s participation in all stages of reconstruction at the national and local levels through participation in relief institutions.

The second pillar, “Protection”, is to protect conflict-affected women and girls from all forms of gender-based violence, particularly sexual violence, and end impunity. It includes elements such as mechanisms to ensure the protection of women and girls, particularly within camps, in displacement sites and areas of return, effective reporting and intervention, accountability and justice to prevent impunity for perpetrators, as well as protection of women and girls affected by the conflict from sexual violence, which has been used as a weapon of war.

The third pillar, “Prevention”, deals with preventing women and girls from all forms of gender-based violence before, during and after conflict. This can be achieved by creating a safe and supportive environment for women and girls based on community cohesion by changing religious and community discourse towards a more tolerant and receptive direction, the inclusion of women’s protection in conflict settings in institutional frameworks for translating it into binding procedures, increasing the resilience of women affected by conflict through improved livelihoods and access to services, especially most women, as a result of conflict, are dependants of their families, and mainstreaming gender in early warning systems to prevent conflict-related violence. A logical framework for implementing the plan has been designed, detailing each strategic pillar, divided into results, outputs and activities with proposed indicators (using results-based management language) and the names of implementing stakeholders and potential partners.

Pillar One: Participation: Enhancing women's participation in leadership and decision-making so as to enhance security and peacebuilding in accordance with the following objectives:

1. Women's active participation in achieving and sustaining peace.
2. Integrating women into relief efforts and all stages of reconstruction at the national and local levels.
3. Increasing the proportion of women in executive committees (Kurdistan Region). The results and impact of the work on this pillar can be known by identifying the following indicators and outputs:

First: increasing the proportion of women in the security sectors and the High Commission for Peaceful and Community Coexistence.

Second: Increasing the number of women working in humanitarian relief and reconstruction programmes.

Third: Engaging women with influential capacities and skills in managing negotiations and peacebuilding.

Pillar Two: "Protection": protecting conflict-affected women and girls from all forms of gender-based violence and ensuring that perpetrators of violence against women do not go unpunished. The objectives of this pillar are: First, to ensure the protection of women and girls, especially in camps, displacement sites and areas of return. Second: to achieve accountability and justice to prevent impunity for perpetrators.

Third: protection of conflict-affected women and girls from sexual violence as an instrument of war and their reintegration into society. Indicators and outputs: specific to this pillar can be measured by:

First: Official bodies adopting appropriate mechanisms and procedures to protect women in conflict situations and responding to reported cases.

Second: An increase in women's and girls' use of mechanisms and reporting channels on gender-based violence.

Third: An increase in the proportion of cases responded to through access to service from reported cases.

Fourth: Increasing women's and girls' awareness of protection mechanisms available in conflict situations.

Fifth: The level of community awareness of the importance of protecting women and girls during and after conflict.

Pillar Three: “Prevention”: strengthening prevention of risks before, during and after conflict, and supporting an environment free of gender-based violence, which aims to achieve the following objectives:

First, creating a safe environment for women and girls and a supportive society based on coexistence and non-violence.

Second: Incorporating the concept of conflict prevention within formal institutional frameworks.

Third: Increasing conflict-affected women’s resilience through livelihood opportunities and access to services in their communities. The extent to which these targets are achieved can be determined by the following indicators and outputs:

- Number of women benefiting from prevention programmes and services, whether formal, governmental or community.
- Number of legislative, executive and procedural amendments taken by the Government on women’s protection in conflict situations.

The Iraqi Government’s vision of interest in the resolution was clarified on the basis of the importance of the resolution and its contribution to addressing many gaps in terms of enhancing the status of women in the post-conflict phase and its commitment to promoting the realities and empowerment of Iraqi women in all areas and supporting their issues and rights. Pursuant to Iraq’s commitment to Security Council resolution 1325, the Iraqi Government has ratified the Second National Action Plan for the Implementation of Resolution 1325, and in order to ensure the achievement of the objectives set out in the Plan and the implementation of related activities, a plan for the follow-up of implementation has been drawn up, consisting of the following steps:

First, the Plan's main objectives are:

- Follow-up on the implementation of activities with key executors according to the appropriate period, giving relative flexibility to those mentioned in the implementation in terms of time and how to implement the activity as appropriate, in accordance with the established objectives.
- Coordinate among key executing entities and identify their respective responsibilities for complementarity of efforts and distribution of roles.
- Identification of the role of stakeholders in the implementation of the plan's activities and enhanced coordination between them and key actors.
- Follow-up to provide facilities and remove obstacles to the implementation of the Plan's activities.
- Identifying the progress in the implementation of the Plan's activities and reporting thereon

Second: The stakeholders responsible for follow-up and their representation:

1. Iraqi Women's Empowerment Department at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers.
2. Women's empowerment sections and formations in governorates, ministries and government institutions.
3. Key actors responsible for the implementation of activities.
4. Follow-up reports can be received by non-governmental supporters.

Third: Procedures for action on the decision by the institutions concerned and in accordance with their terms of reference as follows:

First: Women's Empowerment Department, which works according to the following methods:

Following the approval of the Plan, the Women's Empowerment Service disseminates the activities to be carried out according to the main parts of the Plan.

1. Following the approval of the Plan, the Women's Empowerment Service circulates the activities to the main stakeholders of the Plan.
2. In coordination with key implementing actors, the Women's Empowerment Service assesses the mechanisms and procedures for implementing activities.
3. The Service discusses proposals to modify or add other activities or change their timings with the key actors to ensure that they align with the plan's aims and objectives.
4. The Department circulates activities in which a number of key actors are engaged for the purpose of ensuring that the works are not intersected, and the procedures are distinct.
5. In coordination with the supporting bodies, the Department for the Empowerment of Women follows up on the provision of the required needs and coordinates joint efforts to implement the Plan's activities.
6. The Women's Empowerment Service proposes implementation mechanisms for activities in coordination with

key implementing and supporting actors.

7. The Women's Empowerment Service, in collaboration with partners, reports annually on the implementation of the Plan.
8. In collaboration with partners, the Women's Empowerment Service reports annually on the implementation of the Plan.

Ministries, institutions and entities not affiliated with a Ministry (the key actors) prior to implementation, and their mission focuses on the following:

9. Key implementing entities send out implementation mechanisms for the plan's activities, including implementation mechanisms, timelines and implementing entities within the Ministry.
10. If several key actors share the activity, each entity will determine which part of the activity it will carry out.
11. The key actors describe how the activity is carried out and identify the support required in the implementation of the activities
12. For activities over the time of the plan, implementation mechanisms and procedures are developed to cover the entire duration of the plan.
13. In coordination with the Women's Empowerment Service, the key actors can propose changes to activities commensurate with available potential and achieve activity objectives, as well as other promotion activities, or duplicate activities as needed.
14. The Department of Women's Empowerment receives and discusses the position towards the study and, after its approval, directs key actors to initiate implementation, and the Department of Women's Empowerment can request from the main key to make amendments or additions.
15. Where necessary, the Women's Empowerment Department can coordinate between the key executors (when there are multiple executors) to design the final implementation mechanism.

Third: empowerment sections and formations in ministries, government institutions, authorities not affiliated with a Ministry, and governorates

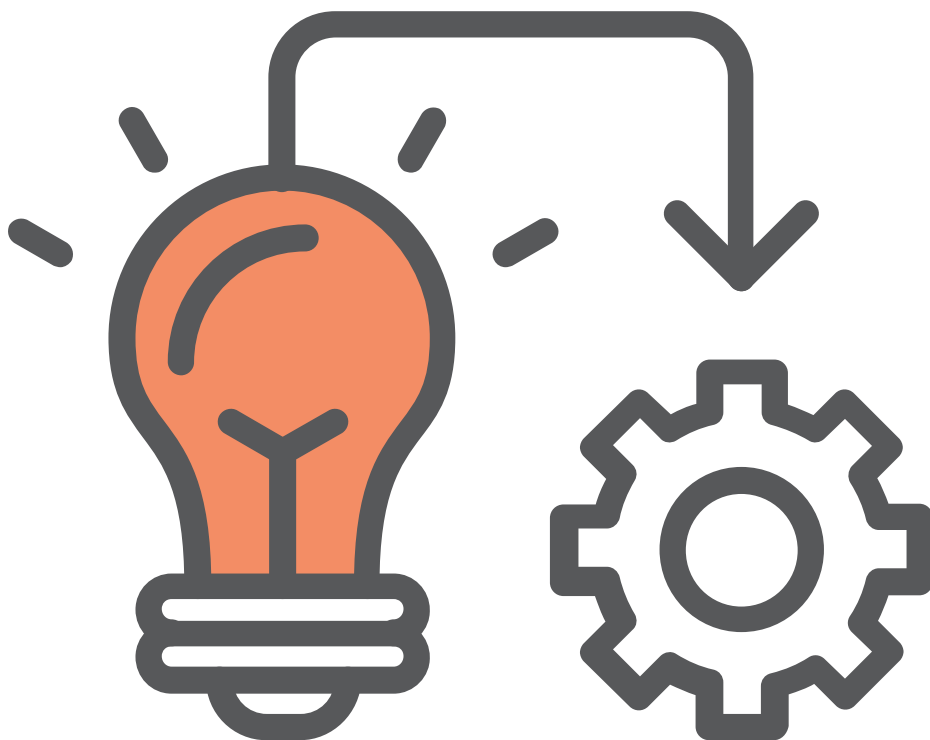
1. Women's empowerment sections and formations are included in the working committees and meetings of key implementing actors to design implementation plans for the activities of the National Plan of Resolution 1325.
2. Women's empowerment sections and formations follow up on the implementation of the position agreed upon in the first steps to implement the resolution.
3. The Women's Empowerment Sections and Formations communicate and coordinate with the Department of Women's Empowerment to follow up on preparations and developments for the implementation of the

activities of the Plan.

4. Women's empowerment sections and formations assess and match work to goals and make proposals for work development.
5. Women's empowerment sections and formations submit their report after the implementation of activities, including a description of the activity and its implications.

Fourth: Supporting Parties

6. In coordination with the Department for Women's Empowerment, the supporting parties follow up on the implementation of the activities of the National Plan for Resolution 1325.
7. Supporting parties provide the Women's Empowerment Department with a report on support to key implementing actors, ongoing preparations and proposals for implementation mechanisms.
8. The Women's Empowerment Department receives reports from supporting actors on implementation, work evaluations and development proposals. (Second National Action Plan to Activate Security Council resolutions 1325 for the years 2021-2024, UN Women, and the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers Baghdad 2021.)



**The role of non-
governmental
organizations and
the media in the
implementation of
the women's agenda
for security and peace**



The role of non-governmental organizations and the media in the implementation of the women's agenda for security and peace

In the most recent study on the prospects for the implementation of resolution 1325 in Iraq and the national plan and working on it conducted by the Netherlands Catalystas Foundation in 2022, it was explained that several initiatives are underway by the women's networks mentioned above aimed at working together to create mechanisms in response to the needs of women in their local communities. One of the issues highlighted by many women's organizations was the decline in funding, with requirements established by international donors and partners on how budgets should be allocated. This has often led to local organizations designing programmes that focus heavily on capacity development and advocacy rather than directly responding to women's community needs. Current efforts by women's organizations seeking to coordinate all women's rights groups in Iraq largely focus on attracting funding and support for direct response programmes dictated by local organizations' needs. This process seeks to fill gaps left behind by the restrictions in the government response, legal protection and international assistance across the country. While these reactions do not lead to legislative and structural changes to the State's laws and policies, they can create a local response process that promotes and enables a more effective and comprehensive response to the women, peace and security agenda. Moreover, such a strengthened civil society can have a more influential impact once there is more space for civil society at the national decision-making level.

<https://catalystasconsulting.com/shrinking-civic-space-and-unscr-1325-in-iraq/>

Therefore, the work of civil society organizations and according to many international studies and reports on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 is the main basis because they are responsible for raising awareness, monitoring and implementing advocacy campaigns and advocating for the implementation of the resolution.

Some organizations have set open paths to the important role of civil society organizations:

- Calling for the adoption of special measures to increase women's participation in peace processes and implementation and monitoring mechanisms.
- Promoting the inclusion of gender-sensitive provisions in all ceasefire and peace agreements and in humanitarian assistance plans and their delivery.
- Establishing partnerships with youth-led organizations and networks to integrate their priorities into advocacy in the areas of women, peace and security/youth, peace and security - engaging men and boys as allies and partners

to support women's and girls' work on gender equality and human rights, without diverting support and resources away from advocacy and development in the area of women's rights.

(Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action Compact, Generation Equality Forum)

In order to achieve equal participation, the above study explains that civil society organizations can work to achieve participation either directly or through partnerships with the private sector or relevant civil institutions through:

- Providing financial, technical and advisory support to mediators and peace-builders from women involved in peace processes and supporting women participating at all levels and stages of these processes, including through systematic linkages between formal and non-formal peace processes.
- Forming Women's movements, which aim at benefiting from women's leadership roles from A to Y, and engaging groups of women who usually suffer from marginalization, as well as smaller civil society organizations representing diverse geographical areas and marginalized groups.
- Supporting diverse groups of women peacebuilders by facilitating their access to digital technologies and electronic protection.
- Committing to ensuring the protection of information and privacy of women and other human rights defenders, peacebuilders and activists.
- Sharing knowledge and evidence with various stakeholders on effective strategies and current/potential interventions for women's economic security.
- Documenting examples of good practices of women-owned and women-led enterprises, companies and business associations involved in post-conflict economic recovery and recovery and advocating for increased investment in these models.
- Strengthening the role of civil society organizations in implementing participatory programmes with government institutions on resolution 1325, especially those related to gender awareness and enhancing women's position in community and government decision-making centres.
- Raising awareness about gaps in the systems' data that need to be addressed, including those related to gender and environmental indicators and vulnerability, and the links between women's economic empowerment and participation in peace processes.
- Enhancing the ability of NGOs to interact and achieve serious work in changing opinion convictions and lobbying decision centers for women's issues through advocacy campaigns or awareness-raising campaigns.
- Using principles shared by businesses to strengthen linkages at the macro and micro levels; and enabling

female entrepreneurs to help develop skills continuously.

- Promoting the participation of women-owned enterprises, companies and business associations in local, national and board-level discussions on economic recovery and post-conflict economic recovery, and Promoting women's access to finance and other resources, including agricultural products. (Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action Compact, Generation Equality Forum)



Resolution 1325 and Media



Resolution 1325 and Media

Twenty years ago, United Nations Member States recognized the role of media in transforming the gender stereotype that influences how we think and act. “Women and media” is one of 12 critical Beijing Platform for Action points.

Years earlier, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights established a Subcommittee on Freedom of Information and the Press in 1947 to report to the Commission on Human Rights on rights and obligations that must include freedom to recognize the right to information. This is in line with the international human rights system, which recognizes the role of the media and enshrines the right to freedom of opinion and expression in accordance with article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states: “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”.

In accordance with the Beijing Platform for Action, it needs to

- Increase women’s participation and improve their opportunities to express their views and make decisions in and through the media and new communication technologies.
- Promote a balanced and non-stereotypical image of women in the media.

The role of the media is no longer limited to giving facts as news but also analyses and comments on facts and thus shapes people’s views on them. Furthermore, today’s media also set out for States their social, political, economic and even cultural agenda. With the advent of satellite channels and the spread of social media, the impact has become more acute and profound through the continuous round-the-clock flow of and access to news and information, which makes it difficult for people to be neutral and unimpressed by the media’s provision.

(Security Council resolution 1325 and its complementary resolutions, Special knowledge guide on ways to integrate it into the working approaches of security and media institutions, and civil society organization programs, Abaad Organization, Beirut 2020)

The role of the media has changed dramatically in recent years in fragile and conflict-affected societies according to changing media technology and means used in conflict or when covering women’s issues in the period and after conflict. It is these considerations that have prompted the media to pay attention to issues concerning the situation of women in the context of conflict, in particular the aggravation of violations of women’s rights to

security and physical integrity, and to focus directly and continuously on professional foundations on:

- Rape, sexual harassment and exploitation during conflicts and wars.
- The pressure and violence women are subjected to, psychological attacks, and the increasing economic burden on women caused by war.
- The absence of professional bases for following up on issues related to women's stories of violence, especially survivors of rape and sexual abuse during conflict.
- The effective role of the media in countering hate speech against women.
- Proper recruitment of the media in implementing advocacy campaigns that concern various issues and influence public opinion and decision centers. This has called on various women's organizations and alliances to develop strategies and plans for the implementation of Resolution 1325. (Women's Peace Network Media Plan, Erbil, Khader Dumley 2022).

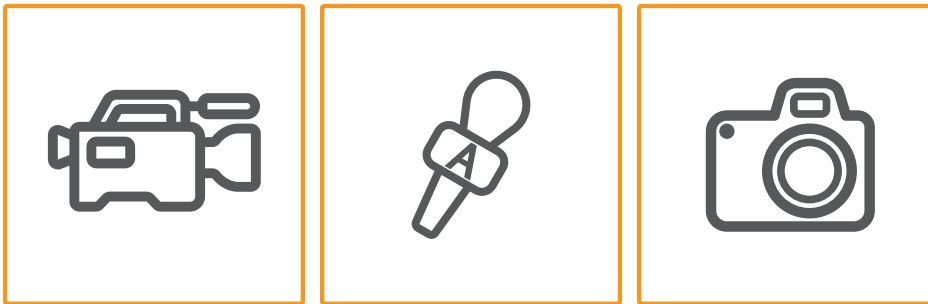
Basic Rules of Media on Women, Peace and Security Issues

Many media institutions agree on a set of norms to be followed on addressing women's issues in general, and on resolution 1325 and strengthening the role of women in peace and security in particular, which focus on:

1. Not to broadcast any inflammatory, inappropriate or unprofessional words or publish comments that incite hatred or reprisals, or disseminate rhetoric that promotes violence, hatred or segregation.
2. Survivors' personalities, victims and even perpetrators of violence may not be shown in situations affecting their human dignity.
3. Respecting and protecting the personal privacy of victims and survivors, including their identities, family members' information, photographs and places of residence and work, in order to avoid any danger to their lives.
4. Information may only be broadcast with an important news value in the public interest and no prejudice to women's privacy.
5. The explicit names of victims may be published only after official bodies have informed their relatives. Avoid blame language. If the woman says she was raped on the road late at night, we don't ask her: «Why were you out late at night».
6. Avoid generalization when women are victims or mothers, as there is a tendency to talk about them on the basis of generalization by many journalists, and they are treated as if they are merely statistical figures and a means of generating sympathy.
7. Information material or reports submitted must not endanger human life. In many cases, cooperation with

relevant security forces/government officials is required to avoid endangering others.

8. Not using alarming and panic-inducing headlines; for example, the rise in suicides in the city - Filipino - without verification, approach and comparison.
9. Contributing to the production of professional media and information content to enhance the status of women and ensure their rights and contribution to decision-making centres according to professional principles.
10. Preparation of specialized interviews and cognitive articles that help to change the pattern of thinking about dealing with women's issues on the basis adopted by human rights institutions and in accordance with United Nations resolutions.
11. Employing the media properly to advocate for women's issues and to prepare and produce information materials and content, especially those consistent with international events on women - 8 March or 16 days against violence against women etc.
12. Reliance on reliable sources in the preparation of various reports and media programs.
13. Focusing on preparing success stories and storytelling styles to highlight the role of women in society. ("Guidebook on "Covering Women Peace and Security Issues", Syrian Female Journalists Network, Rola Asad and Milia Edmoni).



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www.aooiraq.org



info@aooiraq.org



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