



Statement by the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq
92nd Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against
Women (CEDAW)

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Geneva, 4 February 2026

**Mr. Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,
Distinguished Members of the Committee,
Esteemed Representatives of International Organizations and Civil Society,
Greetings,**

I am pleased to present to your esteemed Committee the measures undertaken by the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq including laws, regulations, instructions, and practical procedures to implement the Region's obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and in response to the recommendations of your Committee, with the aim of protecting women's rights and promoting an equal society.

The implementation rates of the recommendations within the Kurdistan Regional Government's Human Rights Plan for the period 2022–2025 demonstrate gradual and tangible progress. The implementation rate reached 42.8% in 2022, increased to 51.9% in 2023, and advanced to 62.3% during the period 2024–2025. At the level of the three branches of government, the executive branch recorded an implementation rate of 87.5%, the judiciary 78.9%, and the legislature 40.5%.

The indicators also reflect significant progress in women's participation in decision-making positions in the Kurdistan Region, with women assuming senior leadership roles, including the presidency of parliament, three ministerial portfolios, and the position of governor. Women's participation in the judiciary has likewise become a key pillar in upholding justice, with the number of female judges reaching 69 out of 270, representing 26.2%. Women constitute 43% of the Public Prosecution and 75% of Judicial Assistants, while efforts continue to strengthen women's representation within the Regional Judicial Council.

In the legislative sphere, the adoption of a 30% quota system has contributed to effective female representation, with 147 women holding parliamentary seats across successive terms, and 65 of them chairing permanent parliamentary committees. In addition, a High Committee for the Protection of Female Candidates during Election Campaigns was established, with the participation of the Supreme Council for Women and Development, several relevant ministries and bodies, the Independent Commission for Human Rights, the United Nations Office, NGOs, as well as the Bar Association and the Journalists Syndicate. This committee was tasked with developing policies and

procedures to protect female candidates from defamation and abuse in the media and on social media platforms, thereby reinforcing women's political participation.

Social stability is closely linked to economic development, as reflected in the regional government's efforts to regulate the labor market to ensure equality. The number of companies with female general managers has reached 778, representing 5.75% of all companies registered under the Unified Economic Number. These companies are primarily active in the trade, services, tourism, and technology sectors, reflecting the impact of administrative and legislative reforms in advancing women's economic participation.

Furthermore, 47,319 female workers have been enrolled in the social security system, including 41,953 local women and 5,266 foreign women. Based on the conviction that empowering rural women is a cornerstone of sustainable development, direct support has been provided through microloans granted to more than 1,198 female farmers, totaling over 9.5 billion Iraqi dinars, in addition to the creation of 3,873 job opportunities for women.

The transparency of regional institutions in monitoring challenges clearly reflects the commitment to reform and the strengthening of good governance. It also demonstrates women's growing confidence in official reporting mechanisms. In 2024, the hotline (119) received a total of 12,274 complaints, of which 1,532 were resolved amicably. In addition, shelter services were provided, and 9,000 housing units were allocated to support women without shelter. Five shelters were also established specifically for women at risk of violence and abuse, offering legal, social, and psychological support. These centers serve more than 900 women annually, and the number of women rehabilitated reached 5,520 between 2019 and 2025, representing nearly 70% of the total.

With regard to combating child marriage and forced marriage, the courts reviewed 313 cases. Field teams were also established within refugee and internally displaced persons (IDP) camps to undertake the necessary legal measures, while the Public Prosecution initiates legal proceedings immediately upon receiving reports. In the area of combating female genital mutilation, community awareness campaigns have yielded tangible results, contributing to a 60% reduction in cases, while providing direct support to approximately 5,000 women from vulnerable groups.

In the education sector, the number of female students exceeded 872,000, representing nearly half of the total student population. Women have also played a prominent role in the media sector, with 1,600 female journalists, 60 female publishers, and 79 female editors-in-chief. In addition, 192 women's organizations have been registered, focusing on empowering women in the political, economic, and social spheres.

In the security and military sectors, 1,332 women serve in the Peshmerga forces, including 1,261 female officers. They have participated in specialized counter-terrorism operations, and women's participation in the police force has increased by 15% since 2021. While these indicators are encouraging, they also underscore the responsibility to address emerging challenges, including cyber violence. In the past year, 99 complaints and 70 cases of unauthorized content publication were recorded, highlighting the need for more specialized legislative and responsive frameworks.

In conclusion, I would like to address the issue of Yazidi survivors. A high-level committee was formed by decree of the Council of Ministers to document the violations committed against the Yazidis by ISIS terrorist gangs, recognizing them as acts of genocide. A budget was allocated for the liberation of abducted individuals. To date, 3,593 survivors have been identified, including 1,212 women and 1,078 girls. More than 1,080 survivors have been transferred to Germany to receive psychological support. In addition, a financial support project for survivors has been launched, benefiting more than 3,500 survivors to date.

Despite the challenges, the Kurdistan Regional Government reaffirms its commitment to continuing the path of legal, institutional, and social reform, and to working constructively with your esteemed Committee to ensure a discrimination free environment and to strengthen the role of women as essential partners in building the future.

Thank you.