Report on Iraq's compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

## High Commission for Human Rights

## Baghdad - March 2019

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**Introduction**

The high Commission for Human Rights was established on the basis of Article 102 of the Iraqi Constitution valid for the year 2005 in Iraq, which was regulated by Law No. 53 of 2008 amended ( the High Commission for Human Rights law) undertaking the work of achieving the objectives stated in Article 3 of its law (To ensure the protection and promotion of respect for human rights in Iraq, the protection of the rights and freedoms set forth in the Constitution and in the laws, treaties and international conventions ratified by Iraq, and the consolidation and development of the values ​​and culture of human rights). In accordance with the duties assigned to it under Articles 4 and 5 of the above law, the Commission undertakes its work in monitoring and observing the reality of human rights in Iraq. It receives complaints from groups, individuals and civil society organizations on violations prior to the promulgation of its law and after. It also has the authority to conduct preliminary investigations into any violation of human rights and to initiate cases of such violations and refer them to the prosecution to be followed-up.

The High Commission for Human Rights submits a report on Iraq's compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to your esteemed Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women Believing that this mechanism has an important role to play in the protection and promotion of human rights and the implementation of the rights contained in the Convention and the implementation of the recommendations made by you, including a comprehensive assessment of legislation, mechanisms and formal procedures on the ground And to measure their discipline and harmony with the principles and provisions of the Convention.

Note that since its establishment, the High Commission for Human Rights has set up a special file for women and has formed a specialized monitoring team to monitor the reality of women's rights and follow up the main observations, opinions and recommendations regarding Iraq's compliance with the CEDAW Convention. And how this has been reflected enjoyment of these rights under the Convention.

The report was based on IHCHR’s (Iraq’s High Commission for Human Rights)monitoring reports, official responses from concerned institutions, relevant international reports, resolutions and instructions issued, minutes of meetings of the relevant official committees, and outcomes of seminars, conferences and workshops established and co-sponsored by IHCHR.

1-For more on the Commission's law follow the link:

<http://ihchr.iq/upload/upfile/ar/1ihr1.pdf>

## Challenges faced by IHCHR in monitoring and evaluation

1. The Central Committee preparing the government report did not follow the method of publicizing, publishing and exchanging views and experiences with national institutions and organizations active in the field of women's rights before it was submitted to the International committee. IHCHR did not have access to the copy of the report only after its publication, which was a challenge because it was a waste of time with no opportunity to consult and express opinion or using the principle of transparency to take the national report to the level of professionalism.

2. The task of launching the national plan and monitoring the level of governmental achievement stalled due to the decision of the Council of Ministers No. 312 on 16/8/2015, which included the cancellation of the Ministry of Human Rights responsible for follow-up implementation, where the state institutions did not adopt clear plans to implement the recommendations within their policies as a result of the vacuum left by the ministry And the absence of serious will to implement the principles of human rights in addition to failure to find alternative mechanisms before the decision of abolition for the purpose of controlling the file of Iraq's international obligations to treaty conventions.

3. The third electoral cycle (2014-2018) of the House of Representatives, which coincided with the time period specified for the implementation of the concluding observations (2014-2018). This was accompanied by the disruption of many plans and policies until the completion of the formation of the new government and the handing over of the tasks assigned to it. Thus, human rights observers did not receive official indicators and did not feel positive developments on the ground regarding the implementation of the recommendations under the pretext of instability of work or the instability of powers.

4. The country was subjected to a vicious attack by terrorist gangs in June 2014 coincided with the start of the hard work phase to implement the concluding observations .this has negatively impacted the task of carrying out most of the observations because of the weakness of the institutional security and service in the face of crises . The turbulent security situation has continued until 2017 (the time allotted for submission of the government report) during which the list of questions that the monitoring teams received did not receive many answers.

 5. The service institutions of the ministries experienced confusion in its work and the work of staff as a result of the decision of disengaging those institutions from the body of the ministry and reintegrating them into the Office of the Province, which led to a significant decline in the provision of services as well as poor spending on them, so that ministries have failed to adopt recommendations and provide IHCHR with adequate Information.

## Indicators in the context of concluding observations

## Use of mandate (recommendation 8)

The legislative authority was far from following up and monitoring the implementation of the International Committee observations, although some of its recommendations related to the legislative issue, only few decisions of the Parliament in the context of its legislative work were in line with some of these recommendations, hereby the most important negative and positive indicators in this aspect:

First, the Representatives council did not respond to the draft amendment of the Personal Status Law No. 188 of 1959.

Second, the draft law on the protection against domestic violence and the law on child protection have not been ratified by the previous parliamentary session.

Third: Adoption of the Parliament of Kurdistan Region Law No. 3 of 2015 on the suspension of Article 409 / Penalties.

Fourth: Adoption of the new labor law 37/2015

Fifth . Adoption of the Law on Organization of Parties 36/2015.

Sixth: Approval of the Passport Law 32/2015.

Seventh:. Adoption of the amnesty law 27/2016.

Eighth: Adoption of the Social Protection Law 11/2014

Ninth: Adoption of the law banning the transplantation of human organs 11/2016

Tenth: Adoption of the Law of the Supreme Judicial Council 45/2017.

Eleventh: Adoption of Public Prosecution Law No. 49/2017.

Twelfth: Adoption of the Law on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 50/2017.

Thirteenth: Adoption of the Law on the Protection of Witnesses, Experts, Detainees and Rescuers 58/107.

Recommendations:

- Amendment of the Personal Status Law No. 188 of 1959 in line with Iraq's international obligations.

- Urging the House of Representatives to approve the draft law of protection against domestic violence.

- Urging the House of Representatives to approve the draft law on the protection of children.

## Security System Reform (9,10)

The security disturbance caused by terrorist attacks of Daesh in a number of cities has doubled the seriousness of women's vulnerability to violence, These violations have greatly impaired (the right to life, freedom, dignity, physical integrity, security, stability, self-determination, health, education and housing)the right to life, liberty, dignity, physical integrity, security, stability, self-determination, health and education).

The outcomes:

1. A large number of widows and women-headed families.
2. A large number of victims of sexual violence because of rape and forced marriage.
3. Some families are socially rejected and threatened because their sons joined Daesh that support terrorism.
4. Children of Daesh from sexual violence lack all their civil and human rights.
5. Many families have shifted from good standard of living to the level of extreme poverty due to displacement and the killing of their children therefore women became the most victims of this poverty.

Despite the approval of the Council of Ministers on the strategy of security sector reform in 2016, the adoption of the program of security reform, the draft strategy to combat violent extremism, and the establishment of the Nahrain Center for Strategic Studies to form a national committee to follow up the implementation of the security reform program under Diwani order (382 on 6/11/2017) in addition organizing workshops and conferences aimed at empowering women in the security sector and in line with the requirements of resolution 1325 .. However, the Commission noted the slow government measures that taken to provide quick and parallel protection from the crisis.

It also noted that the strategy of the reform of the security sector consists of 14 items. The mechanisms had been in line with the International committee’s observation but do not include a separate section for women and have not referred to the adoption of the concept of gender in its context. The Commission has officially addressed the National Security Advisory and proposed to organize its plans and programs and measure the impact according to the gender perspective .The Advisory officially responded to this proposal and promised to take it into account in the work of the committees responsible for implementation.

## Access to justice and ensure that perpetrators of domestic violence are punished.

In spite of the formation of family and child protection departments since 2010 and then the creation of the Directorate of Family Protection in 2013 as a central authority to manage the departments in Baghdad and other provinces, the Commission recorded the following indicators and challenges:

First, The Directorate of Family Protection operates without a legal cover as a result of not passing the law on the protection against domestic violence, which includes an explicit text to form it. The Directorate lacks psychological programs and studies on violence against women and the database needed to diagnose the phenomenon.

Second: employees of these departments are very few, especially in the provinces, and they need professional training to be able to deal with victims and survivors of violence.

Third: Family protection departments are located within the public police stations. This in itself is a reason for women to refrain from raising the complaint because of the sensitivity of the woman's position fearing from criticism from the society, noting that the department of Rusafa lacks the lowest working standards.

Fourth: The Supreme Judicial Council abolished the family courts in 2017 and referred the cases of domestic violence to judicial investigation courts in accordance with the spatial jurisdiction. This led to a decrease in the number of cases received by the directorate. Social research has become secondary despite its importance furthermore; Family lawsuits are not given any kind of privacy because the investigating judge considers them criminal proceedings.

Despite reporting the implementing agencies of those indicators, the Commission did not find a response.

Statistics of the Higher Judicial Council indicate that 18,453 completed cases of domestic violence in 2016 and (16619) cases in 2017 do not represent the real number of domestic violence cases that occurs behind closed doors.

## The judiciary Independence and ensuring that perpetrators of violence against women are punished:

Despite the Supreme Judicial Council has launch a program for the strategy of communication with state institutions and individuals with international support to ensure transparency when dealing with the protection of rights and the dissemination of knowledge of the law and remedies means for the period between 2014-2016, which was welcomed by human rights activists and government institutions. Those efforts were culminated by activation of a special website for the the Supreme Judicial Council.

 IHCHR believes that there is still a need to facilitate women's access to justice, the elimination of red tape and the promotion of educating legal rights and litigation procedures in addition to the creation of effective channels of communication between the executive and legislative institutions and between the judicial institutions themselves as well as between the latter and the human rights institutions to ensure the response and support of the Judicial Council relating to the proposals contained in the monitoring reports of the Commission. IHCHR believes it is important to re-establishing the experience with a new vision, in view of the need to open channels of communication with the Supreme Judicial Council on issues of violence against women and to address the phenomenon of marriage of minors and divorce.

**Recommendations:**

- Urge the government to expedite rapid action in providing protection from domestic violence.

- Urging the government to include the gender concept within the security sector reform strategy.

- Develop a plan to monitor and measure the impact of the security sector reform strategy in a consistent context by the executive authorities (internal control) as well as national institutions and human rights organizations in order to urge the implementation of the roles entrusted to the parties in a manner consistent with the levels of goals and formations prepared for such strategies.

- Develop a database of psychological programs and studies related to violence against women.

- Provide the departments of family and child protection in the governorates with trained staff who have sufficient experience to deal with victims and survivors of violence.

- Separation of family and child protection departments from public police stations to support women and encourage them to follow up and file complaints without fearing from criticism of society.

- Urge the Supreme Judicial Council to reinstate the Family Courts and refer cases of domestic violence to them instead of referring them to the judicial investigation courts in accordance with spatial jurisdiction.

- Urge the judiciary and the Supreme Judicial Council to take into consideration the laws and principles of human rights when considering cases related to violations of human rights.

- Urge the Supreme Judicial Council to reinstate the "Strategy for Communication with State Institutions and Individuals" program, with special channels of communication on issues of violence against women and addressing the phenomenon of marriage of minors and divorce.

## Stages of implementation of the contingency plan for Security Council Resolution 1325/2000 (11-12)

IHCHR followed up with the resolution Committee 1325 as an observer member within the National Team for the implementation of the resolution, noted the following:

First, the sectoral teams of the resolution committee focused on the awareness base of the resolution. They had a distinguished effort in holding workshops and courses for all ministries and their employees sensitizing them of the resolution and its foundations, in the absence of an evaluation and follow-up of the completed awareness programs.

Second, the resolution secretariat prepared a report on the level of implementation in ministries announcing its initial draft in a conference held in late 2017 and then launched the final report in 2/2018.

Thirdly, the lack of the new national plan by the end of 2018 has an adverse effect because of the return of most of the displaced to their areas in late 2017 and early 2018, which requires direct implementation of the resolution principles on post-conflict reparation and determination of execution frameworks by the institutions concerned.

Fourth, Most of the programs implementing the plans are fulfilled only with the support of international organizations.

Fifth, IHCHR did not observe ministries real presence in the displacement camps to apply the emergency plan mechanisms. For example, there were no specialized committees for women within the displaced communities to rehabilitate and educate them of forgiveness and peace. The women's committees in the compounds distribute food rations and relief aid to women, no centers were constituted to follow up domestic violence under the pretext of tribal character of the people of these communities who refuse intervene of authority.

Sixth, The Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Immigration have coordinated to obtain grants (2 million dinars) for each Yazidi victim, but have not yet been released.

**Recommendations:**

- Urge the government to develop an evaluation and follow-up process of the programs implemented within the activities related to resolution 1325.

- Urge the government to expedite the implementation of the decision-making principles for post-conflict reparation, especially as many displaced persons have returned to their areas of residence.

- Urge concerned ministries to form special women committees in displacement camps and conflict-affected areas to undertake rehabilitation, education, peace dissemination and follow-up cases of domestic violence.

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## Internally displaced women and girls, returnees and refugees (13 and 14)

## The Commission, through its field monitoring teams, has indicated the following:

## The number of displaced families for the period from June 2014 to July 2018 reached (892311) families, including (123135) women headed families;

## These families have been exposed to health deterioration as a result of the limited health services at the IDPs camps which only provide treatments for emergency cases not the serious health problems such as breast cancer, uterus, birth defects and disabilities;

1. The Ministry of Health lacks productive family planning programs, which led to the continuation of cases of early marriage and polygamy and reproduction inside idps camps. The absence of the simplest types of human rights caused deaths of children and mothers;
2. The Ministry of Health apologized for not providing camps of the displaced with ambulances. The Ministry attributed the shortage in ambulances to the relief operations of the security forces and the popular mobilization and the failure of many of them.
3. The Ministry of Education has been able to provide educational seats for the children of the displaced at a level ranging from the average to acceptable, beyond the administrative routine until the end of the crisis, with the reservation of our commission on the poor school environment in the compounds , especially outside the cities.
4. The Ministry of Labor was able to contain the issue of the payment of the social protection salaries to displaced persons, but this did not stop suffering of women to complete the necessary legal transactions. Others couldn’t even get any amount of money due to lack of coverage to those who had not been registered in the database because of the ministry routine. The Ministry of Labor initiated the project of (my country protects me) in 2014 where a team from the Commission and the Ministry formed to include widows and divorcees in the database on an exceptional basis until the launch of the allocations and until the preparation of this report the allocations has not been released, Our reservations include, in addition to women's lack of access to grants, the promises made to them created a kind of gap and distrust of the government’s humanitarian initiatives.
5. The Commission has not heard clear echoes of the emergency plan for the implementation of the Security Council resolution in the displacement compounds.

Although the government implemented in early 2018 a plan to return the displaced persons to their areas by cutting off the basic and humanitarian services presented to the compounds despite the lack of rehabilitation of the cities and the poverty of the families. The return operations were facilitated by the concerned authorities and the departments of the compounds, And the adoption of the House of Representatives resolution 3/2016, including the formation of a committee to develop treatments for the problems left behind by Daesh in the province of Nineveh. The Council of Ministers also issued resolution no. 27/2016 to compensate the damage and establish the fund of reconstruction of the affected areas based on the law of the budget (Article 28) and the 4/2015 system which have been enacted since 18/2/2015 in addition to the allocation of the government according to Article 41 of the Federal Budget Law 2017; however, the Commission indicated that the return of families to the liberated cities has exposed them to new violations and the beginning of a new page of deprivation and suffering. It also noted the slow pace in meeting the needs of the basic cities and the rehabilitation of the infrastructure, especially on the right side of Mosul and the province of Salah al-Din and the outskirts of Anbar and Falluja.

The IHCHR noted that the number of foreign children of Daesh is (88) children (32) children deported to (Russia, Turkey, Azerbaijan) and the remaining 56 children (38 males and 18 females) were left in one of the orphanage in Baghdad until the completion of the deportation procedures, while the number of the sons of Daesh from Yazidi women is (9) children, Including those of unknown descent, some of whom relatives are imprisoned , some of whom are not wanted by their relatives, and most of them are subjected to trafficking and sexual exploitation.

The Commission identified a number of indicators on the status of women of the Daesh families in the camp of Nimrod:

1. 10 cases of early marriages which cannot be considered as simple thing because it indicates the troubled social situation of these families.
2. One suicide attempt occurred in the camp but was taken over.
3. There were 4 arrests and detention of women in the camp.
4. The total lack of electricity supply to the camp, the Commission has addressed the Directorate of Electricity of Nineveh province to connect the camp to the electricity grid.
5. The IDP grant was stopped for families in the camp for unknown reasons, in addition to dozens of women entitled to social benefits. The commission has addressed the Ministry of Labor / Social Welfare Department in Nineveh governorate concerning this issue.
6. 60% of widows and divorced women suffer from loss of identity papers in addition to the difficulty of issuing IDs for their children from Deash fathers, which constitutes a great violation of civil rights caused by the abnormal situation of that category. The IHCHR addressed the Ministry of Interior / Ninewa Police Command suggesting sending a mobile detachment to the camps to find radical solutions to the problem of those families. The ministry responded to this requirement as the Interior Ministry sent its detachments to the compound.
7. A school set up by INTERSUS and attended by 800 students, while the number of those who are entitled to study is 1300 students. The Commission therefore addressed the Nineveh Education Directorate to open a public school and address the dropout in the compound. But this requirement has not been met.
8. It is important not to isolate these families because it develops feelings of exclusion which may lead to growth of revenge desire or raising a generation of an aggressive tendency towards the community. The IHCHR team reported that these families live in a social isolation that is difficult to overcome without the intervention of the state to spread forgiveness among its children.

Therefore, it is important to work on establishing an integrated system to deal with disasters and wars that occur in accordance with regional and international developments and changes.

**Recommendations:**

- Urge the government to offer the chronically ill women in the camps or in their areas of origin the necessary attention in terms of providing the necessary health services.

-urge the concerned authorities to prepare and implement programs to reduce early marriage and polygamy cases in the camps, and provide reproductive health education requirements and the need to involve IHCHR as a national institution for human rights for monitoring and enforcement.

- Urge the Ministry of Labor to launch the allocations for the project (my country protects me).

- Urge the government to rebuild infrastructure and accelerate the rehabilitation of cities that have been liberated, especially the right side of Mosul, Salah ad Din, Anbar and Fallujah.

- Develop a plan of action to address the issue of children of Daesh, taking into consideration the human rights standards and the violations they have been subjected to as vulnerable groups, and involving IHCHR in these plans.

**Reservations (15, 16)**

24. The Commission has not seen any governmental efforts to review Iraq's reservations over Article 2 and Article 16 of the Convention. According to the Commission's analysis, the reasons are the need for practical progress in improving social cultures that are subject to behavioral stereotypes before deciding on reservations. This has not happened at the levels of institutional government work or community work. Despite the availability of awareness programs, results achieved are not strengthening the position of the government. This matter needs international and national efforts to formulate policies aimed at areas that are feeding or producing stereotypical perception which affecting decision making.

**Constitutional Framework and Discriminatory Laws (17, 18))**

The Commission noted that the International Convention is no higher than the national legislation under the legal system in Iraq and this principle derives from the provisions of the Iraqi Constitution in force, which did not give international conventions and treaties priority over the provisions of domestic legislation, and this leads us to say that the Law on Ratification of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women Convention is part of national legislation and has a modified effect on legal provisions. However, this is true in purely theoretical terms because the national judge in Iraq, especially in criminal courts, is strictly bound by the Iraqi provisions of the Criminal Code not considering other provisions contained in international conventions ratified by Iraq.

Consequently, women whose rights have been violated cannot invoke the Convention in national court.

Al-Jaafari draft law on personal status : The Commission addressed the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers / Department of Women's Empowerment demanding coordination with the Parliamentary Women's Committee on the importance of observing the rights of Iraqi girls when discussing any amendment to the personal status law, especially with the rejection of the community of intellectuals and activists of some of the proposed texts on the age of marriage. The department formed a high-level team and held a meeting with the Parliamentary Committee of Women, Families and Children, and It was ascertained that there were no repercussions leading to a return to the draft amendment.

Discriminatory provisions against women: Despite the formation of successive committees of retired judges in the Supreme Judicial Council 2014 and 2017 to study and amend the legislation, no actual action has resulted from the work of that Committee, it is noted from the dates mentioned that the process of studying discriminatory legislation and amendment did not take precedence In accordance with the standards of women's rights. There is a clear delay in initiating constructive and productive efforts.

According to Law No. 35/2015, the ratification of the Convention is part of the Iraqi legal system. A Supreme Committee was established under the chairmanship of the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers to harmonize national legislation with international conventions. However, there has been no actual outcome of its work, and judicial trends to work according to the international law are rare but sometime applied according to the level of the judge's culture and conviction of international human rights conventions.

The Commission noted the lack of success of government and community efforts to persuade the Iraqi legislator to review some of the discriminatory laws in the Iraqi Penal Code No. 111 of 1969 and the most important articles (41,128, 130, 131,377,380,398); Note that the Kurdistan Region does not work with these texts under the laws of Amendment No. 15 of 2008 and 9 of 2003 (17). It also granted women equal rights with men in matters of personal status, in conformity with most of the provisions of Article 16 of the Convention.

Protection of Family Violence Bill: The draft law on protection from domestic violence is subjected to procrastination, despite two parliamentary readings, the first of which was on 1/3/2015 and the second on 17/1/2017 and all attempts of the Commission and civil society organizations to push for approval in addition to the official correspondences with the parliamentary committees, the draft law had not been given the priority within the agenda of the House of Representative.

Decision makers are still far from the goal of legalization of protection from domestic violence for reasons related to social traditions that consider women relying on powers from outside family an extreme action.

The implications of delaying the approval of this draft law are:

1. Continuation of the gap between the center and the Kurdistan region in this regard, where the government of Kurdistan region issued the law of domestic violence No. 8/2011;

2. Absence of a legal cover for the establishment of shelters for domestic violence victims in Baghdad and the governorates;

3. The absence of a legal cover to support the functions of the Directorate of Family Protection departments in Baghdad and the provinces that do not receive support as a result of the absence of legal authority,

4. Failure of the family investigation courts to continue and the easiness to cancel them by an individual behavior or by the Supreme Judicial Council and the negative effects that have already been mentioned.

**Ensuring gender equality in freedom of movement and freedom of women to obtain a passport:**

The Iraqi passport law No. 32 of 2015 did not discriminate between male and female in the passport grant entitlements. the passport is issued to the Iraqi for the person who has reached the age of 18 years without identification of sex on the basis of article 5 / P 1 of the law. while paragraph 2 of that article stipulates conditions for a person under the age of 18 whether male or female because he is a minor and the passport shall be issued with the consent of his or her guardian so that there is no discrimination in the right to grant a passport to a minor or adult woman. However, there are social conditions for women that should be accompanied by special procedures to be granted the passport, including divorced, abandoned, widowed, wife of the prisoner and the wife of the migrant.

IHCHR has confirmed that these restrictions may restrict women's freedom to travel in the absence of a husband's consent. However, alternative solutions to guarantee the rights of the rest of the family are almost nonexistent.

The Commission noted the importance of facilitating procedures to ensure those women’s rights to freedom of movement caused by the complexity of red tape and administrative procedures.

Recommendations:

1. The importance of taking the necessary steps to incorporate the Convention into domestic law and urging the Committee on harmonization of Legislation in the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers to work towards harmonizing the provisions of the Convention with national legislation.
2. Urge the Iraqi Council of Representatives to pass legislation or constitutional amendment to ensure that the provisions of the Convention take precedence over national legislation and be as strong as constitutional texts.
3. Urge the judicial authorities to examine the possibility of issuing instructions that enable women who are victims or those whom rights are violated invoke the Convention in national courts.
4. Urge the government to expedite the submission of the final draft law on protection from domestic violence to the House of Representatives for approval.

# National machinery for the advancement of women (19, 20)

The abolished Ministry of State for Women's Affairs played an important role of drawing up strategies and coordinating with the executive institutions to build legislative and institutional bases to guarantee women's rights. During the second session of the government, it took a major step in this regard through the adoption of the National Security Council Resolution 1325/2000, 164 on 2/4/2014, and the adoption of the national strategy to combat violence against women in 2013, the activation of the Higher Committee for the Advancement of the Status of Rural Women, And activate the Higher Committee for the advancement of the status of Iraqi women, and the creation of gender units in ministries and in the methodology of their work.

These decisions did not receive much echo and did not achieve tangible results at the level of empowerment desired due to the abolition of the Ministry of State for Women's Affairs.

The most important repercussions of the abolition of that ministry:

(The absence of a higher leadership institution for the empowerment of women, the dispersion of the files on which they were working on, contravening the recommendation of the International Committee, which includes granting the ministry a ministerial portfolio, the weakness of women's units and gender in the ministries and the decline of their programs.)

The Commission finds that it is important to take care of women's rights units and gender, And develop them as a supportive party of the government and its national institution.

Replacing the Ministry of State for Women's Affairs with the Women's Empowerment Department does not eliminate the need for an integrated ministry for women because of the modernity of this department and its inability to enrich all files for lack of powers and capabilities. It cannot be considered the biggest sponsor of Iraqi women of all categories.

The ministerial cab of the new government, formed by the 2018-2022 election cycle, did not include any reference to the Ministry of Women's Affairs, which is a negative indicator.

**Recommendations:**

- Urge the government and parliament to work towards transforming the Women's Empowerment Department into an independent body with broad powers.

- Urge the government to support women's and gender units in ministries and develop their programs.

## National human rights institutions (21, 22)

The Commission on Human Rights was issued as an independent body for human rights in accordance with article 102 of the Iraqi constitution for 2005. The Board of Commissioners was elected for the second session and started its work in August. The Commission works according to the Paris Principles in terms of a guaranteed independence by the Constitution and the law. The Commission works according to files approved by the human rights conventions ratified by Iraq, which were classified according to the decision of the Board of Commissioners No. (2) on 8/2/2018.

IHCHR faces various challenges:

1. Lack of funding sources for the establishment of courses, workshops and educational seminars, which is considered one of the means of applying the text of Article 4 of the law of the Commission.

2. A limited Community awareness of the role of national institutions and the manner of interaction with their staff in the performance of their duties.

3. Lack of effective humanitarian channels , which makes it difficult for the national institution to provide advice and guide victims to those who can force reparation.

4. The urgent need for the international community to support the programs and projects of the Commission, especially the organizations of the international community working in Iraq.

**The level of representation of women in the Board of Commissioners:**

The vote was taken during the Parliament session No. 34 held on 9/4/2012 to select the members of the Commission and resulted in the selection of 11 original members (8 males and 3 females) and 3 reserves (2 males and 1 female).

Article 7/1 of the Commission Law No. 47/2017 (23) was amended to have a total membership of 15 instead of 14 members and resulted in voting for the current session of 12 original members (9 males and 3 females) and 3 reserves (2 males) And one female). The number of women in the Board of Commissioners is less than one-third and is somewhat close to the Supreme Court's decision No. 42/2012. However, no mention has been made of the Committee of Experts and the House of Representatives towards increasing the representation of women in the Council, especially that there are human rights files that need to be adopted by Women.

**Recommendations:**

1. Urge the federal government to increase the financial allocations to the Commission and give it freedom to choose the items and doors of disbursement of its budget in a manner that achieves its goals and objectives.

2. Urge the Iraqi government to facilitate the implementation of the law of the High Commission for Human Rights in relation to conducting field visits to prisons and detention centers without prior permission.

3. Urge the government to provide the Commission with data and statistics related to its work in monitoring the reality of human rights in Iraq and preparing a comprehensive statistical system based on human rights indicators.

Temporary special measures (23, 24**)**

Despite the decision of the Council of Ministers No. 175/2015 on the exclusion of widows from the measures of reduction and career slack in addition to the decision to reduce the price of housing units in the complexes implemented by the government by 75% for needy groups, including widows; but the Commission indicated that these resolutions helped only a limited category of families and the execution should be subject to the supervision of the Integrity Commission to protect those categories of exploitation , IHCHR therefore did not see clear effect or support received by those families as a result of the resolutions.

The Commission also did not observe any indicators that determine the level of benefit from the decision of the Council of Ministers No. 254/2016 concerning the increase of the minimum wage of social benefits for women to 225,000, and 175,000 for men, Due to the total cessation of the financial coverage of families under the poverty line for the years 2017 and 2018 and the slow review of files and accompanied by problems of delay in the delivery of social welfare salaries, indicating a significant decline in the recovery of those families from poverty.

 The Commission also pointed out that widows who have issue of exceeding the social welfare pension are not exempted from the restitution decisions despite the issuance of the Council of Ministers' Decision No. 178/2014, which exempts them, where the Ministry of Labor will pay the debts instead of canceling them.

Despite the official demands addressed by the Commission to the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers - and the Ministry of Labor / Department of the refund of funds to exempt those widows, but they were all rejected, which confirms that the decision not entering into force.

loans were granted to women on the poverty alleviation strategy without conducting a comparison between the number of beneficiaries and the total number of applicants. Furthermore results of the project implementation and extent of loan benefit were not emphasized. During the field monitoring, IHCHR was not provided with adequate explanations by the Ministry of Labor concerning these findings.

IHCHR noted the implementation of a number of loan programs:

- Loans for skilled young women since October 2017 with 500 loans.

- Loans for female prisoners and shelter inmates who completed their sentences and have the skills. However, no beneficiary status has been registered so far.

- Loans for women with special needs provided that the beneficiary is able to manage the project

- Loans for businesswomen and unemployed beneficiaries for the implementation of a joint venture. This project has been implemented in Baghdad with the acceptance of 50 projects and four work incubators will be opened (2 Baghdad, 1 Karbala, 1 Dhi Qar).

Despite the launch of these loans, the Commission noted the absence of follow-up and evaluation and measurement of the impact of these programs, and the low number of women beneficiaries versus their real numbers, where statistics indicate the inclusion of 4 rural women compared to 67 male to agricultural loans for period from 1/1/2016 to 31 According to the Ministry of Labor statistics for 2016 and 2017, the number of women applying for loans under the lending program was 896, while the number of males was 8861. Thus, the gap is large and clear between the both sexes. The Ministry therefore adopted a comprehensive database mechanism to increase and encourage women's opportunities.

IHCHR has pointed out the lack of effective governmental measures to address the phenomenon of psychologically displaced women at the legislative and institutional level, which has recently become widespread in the society. IHCHR has appealed to the relevant governmental institutions to provide a solution for the housing of this segment who do not have official documents, but whose demands have been rejected due to the rigid application of the law. The Ministry of Health does not initiate monitoring campaigns to help mental ill persons in streets because of the Mental Health Law No. 2005. Article 7 .(1) The involuntary patient may not be detained or treated involuntarily unless he constitutes a danger to himself and to society. Psychologically displaced persons pose a great danger to themselves and to society. The Commission believes that application of the instructions and laws in force has not considered the laws and principles of human rights or marking the imbalance and try to address it.

The Committee also noted that the measures taken on the phenomenon of begging are limited in accordance with the results of the field monitoring of the Commission. The Committee for Combating Prostitution and Displacement was established by Decree No. 9/2017 and one year after the formation of the Commission, the Committee’s meetings were limited there is absence of coordination among the concerned government bodies. The Committee has no numerical indicators on the spread of begging, which affects the planning and policy-making process, while the outcomes of strategies and policies that contribute to poverty alleviation and the national employment policy are not adopted. The gender perspective is not included.

With regard to foreign beggars, the Ministry of Labor's anti-begging department coordinates with the Ministry of Interior to investigate the issue of residence and take legal action against them. The families of beggars of Syrian and Pakistani nationalities are taking begging as job. The Commission addressed the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers / Cabinet Affairs and Committees to urge the committees to combat begging and homelessness to activate their role through the adoption of serious and implementable plans in addition to addressing the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs On the importance of activating the work and meetings of the committees to combat begging and homelessness in Baghdad and the provinces, but the response was weak.

**Recommendations:**

- Urge the government to reconsider the decisions to support widows so as to provide them with a decent life and enable them to fulfill their family obligations and duties.

- Urge the government to take effective measures to address the phenomenon of displaced women psychologically at the legislative and institutional level and to push the governmental institutions concerned to develop a solution for the housing of psychologically displaced persons who do not have official documents and to amend the Mental Health Law no. No. A / 2005 Article 7 / First, which prevents relieve of a psychologically displaced woman.

- Urging the government to establish a mechanism for monitoring, evaluating and measuring the impact of the loan programs launched by the Ministry of Labor and others.

- Urge the government to activate the committee to combat begging and homelessness, which is established under the Decree No. 9/2017, and to open channels of coordination between the concerned government agencies and the committee, and work on preparing a database of beggars (male and female).

- Urging the government to establish a mechanism for monitoring, evaluating and measuring the impact of the loan programs launched by the Ministry of Labor and others.

- Urge the government to activate the committee to combat begging and homelessness, which is established under the Diwan Decree No. 9/2017, and to open channels of coordination between the concerned government agencies and the committee, and work on preparing a database of beggars (male and female).

## Stereotypes and harmful practices (25, 26)

High rate of child marriage: IHCHR pointed out the increase in the rate of underage marriage, from 22% in 2014 to 30% in 2016, due to the pressure of terrorist attacks and start the liberalization processes that have depleted economic resources. The customs and traditions have affected the increase of the percentage in addition to lack of educational programs and awareness. Also the spread of a large number of (not regulated by law) civil marriage offices that encourages marriage of young women.

The Commission raised recommendations to the Supreme Judicial Council and the relevant ministries to contribute to reducing the phenomenon of child marriage, the most important of which are: (Ending the impact of foreign marriage contracts on court decisions by legalizing the role of the religious figures (cleric); eliminating the phenomenon of circumventing the law when ratifying foreign marriage certificates; , Amend article 9 of the Personal Status Law and address it with greater objectivity and without affecting the values, make the compulsory education extends to the middle and secondary stages and issue instructions to hold students' parents accountable in case they are forced to leave school, Re-examination of the mechanisms of the social researcher in resolving marital disputes, directing government efforts to support and encourage young people over the age of thirty to marry. The response to IHCHR's above-mentioned demands was weak, if not negligible.

**Female genital mutilation**: The government of the province dealt with this type of violence by including it in the list of forms of violence covered by the law against domestic violence No. 8 of 2011/2 and determining the punishment of all those who instigated and participated in committing the act according to Article (29) of the law, Statistics conducted by women's organizations in the region in cooperation with UNICEF and through a field survey of 60,000 different ages. Percentage of female victims of FGM: Erbil Governorate 16.7% Girls vs. 67.6% Women, Sulaymaniyah Governorate 11.8% Girls vs. 60.3% Women, Dohuk Governorate 4.1% Girls vs. 7.4% Women, Halabja District 1.1% girls, 40% women).

What can be deduced from the above indicator shows that the phenomenon still exists, Governorates need to continue to extrapolate to the fate of emerging generations, especially in villages and rural areas of the region.

**Temporary marriage**: This type of marriage is not carried out in public. It depends on legitimate permission in accordance with doctrinal tendencies this type of marriage leads to the exploitation of minors and women in general who fall within the circle of this marriage which occur outside the courts. There are no indications about the increase or growth of this phenomenon because they are individual actions taking place in certain places and not promoted by media or social.

**Honorable Killings**: Statistics of the Judicial Council indicate that 100 crimes were committed in 2016 and 83 crimes in 2017 due to honor. To date, there has been no review or amendment of article 409 of the Penal Code, (111) of the Iraqi Penal Code (No. 111 of 1969), adding that "the killing under the pretext of honor is not an excuse for commutation of the penalty." The Federal Government did not conduct any amendment to those texts and consider them general provisions relating to legal excuses and judicial circumstances And should be applied in all crimes and at the judge's discretion.

**Recommendations**:

- Urge the government to reduce the phenomenon of child marriage through a set of measures, the most important of which are: (Ending the impact of foreign marriage contracts on court decisions by legalizing the role of the cleric, eliminating the phenomenon of circumventing the law when ratifying foreign marriage certificates and holding the lawyer accountable if not comply with it. amend article 9 of the Personal Status Law and deal with it with greater objectivity and without affecting the values, lifting the reservation to Article 16 P / B of the Convention, making the compulsory education extend to the middle and secondary stages and issuing instructions to charge the parents of the students if they are forced to leave school. Solving marital disputes, directing government efforts to support and encourage young people over the age of thirty to marry and encourage the facilitation of marriage between close ages to address the issue of spinsterhood and delayed marriage).

- Urge the Kurdistan Regional Government to eliminate female genital mutilation and to put in place preventive measures to protect girls and women from this type of violence.

- Reduce the phenomenon of honor killings by urging the government to freeze the work of the text of article (409) and amending the provisions of articles (128, 130, 131) of the Iraqi Penal Code No. 111 of 1969, similar to the Kurdistan Region.

## Violence against women (28,29, 30)

In spite of the launch of the strategy of violence against women 2013-2017; however, the Commission pointed out the absence of actual application of the proceeds due to lack of budget allocation and lack of expertise and the abolition of the Ministry of State for Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Human Rights, where many planned initiatives and projects have been frozen, Empowerment of women department formed after the ministry's cancellation did not carry out broad steps of the strategy. The new strategy was launched in 2/2018.

Despite the approval of the Council of Ministers on the law of protection against domestic violence, Resolution 27 of 2015 referred to the House of Representatives; but the Commission indicated a slow pace in dealing with this project because there is no real will by decision-makers in passing it.

Women in parliament have not succeeded in persuading members of the importance of ratifying the law before the end of the 2018 parliamentary session. IHCHR has also noted that the shelters for family violence have not yet been opened.

The Commission stresses that it is difficult to establish numerical determinants of domestic violence crimes because the reporting is based on the cultural and educational background of women and the extent of their willingness to raise the complaint as well as the level of confidence in the ability of the government institution to remedy and solve the social problem.

Statistics of the Directorate of Family Protection in the Ministry of Interior and the Supreme Judicial Council can be a measure of The degree of progress in the level of confidence in the state institutions not a measure of the increase or decrease of the index of the vulnerability of women to domestic violence.

The IHCHR's observes weakness of solutions provided to women by the security and judicial institutions. IHCR has more than one indicator in which these institutions have proved impotent to pursue the situation until it reaches the stage of stability and security.

The statistics of the Ministry of Interior / Family Protection Directorate for the first five months of 2018 indicate that there were (4043) cases of domestic violence, of which 2,870 were completed. Of these cases, (2366 ) are husband's assault : 1311 physical assaults, 221 psychological assaults, 556 verbal assaults, 11 sexual assaults and the remaining attacks are not within this scope). It is noted that women are the most vulnerable members of the family and are physically assaulted in most cases.

The Commission has condemned organized killings against a number of socially active women and it believes that it is important to make greater efforts to protect citizens from this terrorist campaign and reassure the citizens of its end The Commission emphasizes the role of the national security strategy and its tools of the security institutions which bear the greatest burden in developing measures to ensure the security of women who fall within the targeting circle. Planning and achievement are needed to address the problem of women's right to life, physical integrity, a sense of security, enjoyment of their rights to work, at public office and gender equality. Large-scale and long-term media and educational campaigns are also needed to target social foci with an extreme stereotypical view of women.

**Recommendations**:

- Urging the House of Representatives to read and discuss the law of protection from domestic violence; as the Council of Ministers ratified the law by Resolution 27 of 2015.

- Urge the government to open private shelters for female convicts, one of which is under renovation.

- Urge the government and Parliament to take adequate measures to protect human rights defenders (women defenders) and the need to hold perpetrators accountable for crimes against women who are human rights defenders.

## Trafficking, exploitation and prostitution (31-32)

It has been 6 years since the issuance of the law against trafficking in person No. 28/2012, the instructions for activation of the law has not yet been ratified as the Commission notes the lack of regularity in the meetings of the Central Committee and no issuance or activation of any decision have been made since the events of June 2014 (Daesh attacks)

## As the Commission continues to pay attention to this file, the Central Committee was restructured and draft instructions were prepared and submitted to the concerned ministries for comments. The representative of the Commission presented to the Committee his observations on the instructions which were adopted, highlighting that the instructions should include setting up a mechanism that includes the meetings of the Central Committee and the subcommittees in the region and the governorates and determine the quorum of the meeting and the functioning of the work in accordance with Article 4 / III of the law against trafficking in person..

According to Article 11 / VIII of the Anti-Human Trafficking Law No. 28/2012, the Council of Ministers promulgated the system of care for victims of trafficking in person 7/2017, followed by the establishment of the “Safe House’’ in Baghdad, which was recently opened in July 2017.

189. The total number of the registered human trafficking cases is 266 cases were completed and 77 cases were still under investigation. The number of accused was 244. The statistics from the Supreme Judicial Council show that the number of human trafficking crimes for 2016 is 199 declined in 2017 to (91) crimes, and in general the figures mentioned are modest and not classified by sex, in comparison to the size of a phenomenon that globally diagnosed and in a country suffering from social and economic conditions and problems as a result of security challenges, which requires a greater effort from the security authorities.

The opening of the shelter for the victims of human trafficking in Baghdad has been followed up by the IHCHR.( 36) which noted the following:.

 The House needs support from the state, which is supposed to adopt all its problems and challenges simultaneously and continuously. This is the first and unique experience, In-kind in Iraq. It also needs medical services for beneficiaries, inability of the courts of investigation to refer male victims of trafficking to ‘’safe house’’ due to the failure to allocate the upper floor of the house to them but rather to the victims of domestic violence. All beneficiaries were sexually exploited, which means that the judiciary has begun to deal with victims of prostitution. But the cases were only 5, which does not match the numbers of prostitution brokers in the country and the expansion of the outlets of sexual exploitation of women through some commercial occupations such as cafes, beauty centers, massage centers and prostitution centers, which contain many cases of sexual exploitation.

**Victims of prostitution** : Article 4 of the Anti-Prostitution Law No. 8 of 1988 stipulates that a prostitute shall be placed in the reform houses for the guidance and rehabilitation for a period of not less than 3 months and not more than two years. Article 5 includes the punishment of a male or female adult for those who involve a male or female adult with prostitution or buggery with imprisonment of 10 years. If the victim is a minor, the penalty shall be 15 years with the award of compensation to the victim.

At the level of judicial application, women who are involved in prostitution are dealt with as a criminal and a partner of the broker, both punished with the same penalty. Hundreds of judicial decisions have been issued with severe sentences of up to 15 years for the prostitute woman because the courts consider the case from one angle. All parties are considered brokers, beneficiaries and sexual exploiters. The law against trafficking in person needs to be reviewed and amended to include a clear text that distinguishes between the victim who works as a result of extraneous pressures and those who practice brokering for comfortable earning. The judiciary has recently accepted this comparison (which IHCHR has been demanding for years) especially after the opening of the ’ safe house’’ but our index is still low because of the lack of cases referred to the house, which means that the judiciary is still very conservative in considering the prostitute victim.

With regard to the judicial rulings on prostitution crimes implemented , the amnesty laws, the latest of which are the amnesty law No. 27 of 2016, included the courts for those crimes in the Kurdistan Region only

**Recommendations**:

- Urge the government to issue instructions for the Anti-Trafficking in person Law No. 28 of 2012.

- Urge the government to direct those concerned with the meetings of the Central Committee of Combating Human Trafficking to meet periodically, and to prepare a draft of instructions for its work and to make it available to the concerned ministries to make observations.

- Urging concerned authorities in the government to prepare a database and statistics on cases of trafficking in person and provide a copy to IHCHR.

- Urge the government to support the shelter of victims of trafficking (safe house) in Baghdad because it is the first and unique experience in particular, and to be financially support and to meet its needs and provide medical services for beneficiaries

- Urging the House of Representatives to amend the Anti-Human Trafficking Law No. 28 of 2012 to include a clear text that distinguishes between the victim who works as a result of pressures and those who practice brokering for comfortable gain.

- The need to include the perpetrators of the crimes of prostitution committed in advance by amnesty laws as in the case in the Kurdistan region.

**Participation in political and public life (33, 34, 35)**

The Commission pointed out that the Law on Political Parties No. 36 of 2015 does not include the obligation to provide women with high leadership qualities for the candidacy and did not oblige the parties to empower their female members prior to their submission to political life.

Article 11 / 1a referred to the representation of women in the constituent bodies and the general body of parties.

IHCHR noted that the new ministerial cabinet did not include the handover of a ministerial portfolio to women or the appointment of women in senior leadership positions, which marked a failure to recognize women's right to political participation at the level of state administration and decision-making. It noted also that the role of women in the previous government session was purely formal, while the portfolios were given to only two women in the previous session and 5 women in the former session, the current session woman was unable to participate effectively and did not get any ministerial portfolio.

IHCHR noted the following:

- The number of women in the position of Director General (56) in 2018, while the statistics of the reality of gender in the State institutions implemented by the Ministry of Planning indicated (42) women as Director General and 86 women as Assistant Director General for the year 2015 out of (532,939) This figure is very low and is not measured as an indicator of the enjoyment of civil rights in public service.

- During 2014, one woman headed the presidency of the University of Tikrit but was not able to continue because of the security conditions of Salah al-Din as a result of Daesh attacks which disabled all state institutions in those areas.

- The number of ambassadors (4) versus dozens of ambassadors of men around the world.

-The number of female officers in the Interior Ministry (339), 2 as Director of Directorate, 8 as Director of Department and 41 Director of Division.

**Recommendations:**

- Urge Parliament to press for a ministerial portfolio to women in the current government and make room for them as in previous governments.

- Urge Parliament to amend the Parties Law No. 36 of 2015 to provide women with high leadership qualities for nomination and obliges the parties to empower their members of women before presenting them to political life.

- Urge the government to give a role to women in the management of government institutions in sufficient proportions especially regarding the presidency of universities and the administration of embassies abroad.

- To ask the government and political blocs to choose a woman for one of the three presidencies and to take practical and decisive steps to ensure fair participation of women in all parts of the state by granting them leadership positions in the Council of Ministers and the Presidency of the Republic and granting them a role in the membership of all parliamentary committees Granting them a role in the membership of all parliamentary committees and to confirm their participation in ministerial portfolios by not less than 25% .

-Urging the granting of a sovereign portfolio to the Ministry of Women to give greater motivation to women's issues and to meet Iraq's local, regional and international commitments.

**Nationality (36, 37)**

There is no amendment to the Nationality Law No. 26 of 2006, and there is a draft for its amendment. The Commission believes that it is appropriate for human rights organizations to be involved in advising, participating in the preparation of draft amendments to the laws and in discussion by the Supreme Judicial Council, the Council of Ministers and the Parliamentary Legal Committee before the ratification of the texts, in order to guarantee the principles of human rights and vulnerable groups.

**Recommendations:**

- Urge the Supreme Judicial Council to involve the Commission and civil society organizations in drafting and amending laws, including the Nationality Law.

## Education (38, 39)

Developing curriculum to promote the principles of women's rights: IHCHR monitored the implementation of the Ministry of Education project in 2013 in partnership with the relevant ministries to include the introduction of human rights in the curricula, the removal of women stereotypes in the textbooks and replace them with a variety of examples demonstrating the participation of women in the making of life with men. But the Ministry of Education issued a decision in 2015 to stop the work of the project, which led to the decline of the results of this effort in addition to reducing some of human rights subjects. The Commission’s reports displayed that the students and most of the teachers do not know the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women because this chapter is not taught for lack of time and for the preference of other materials.

**Literacy:** Based on the Literacy Law No. 23/2011, the literacy campaign was launched in 2012 and for a final project that extends to 15 years. However, the Commission has indicated a clear imbalance since 2014 because of the lack of financial allocations, which led students, lecturers, directors of centers and supervisors to leave schools. A significant decline in the number of literacy centers has been recorded, in addition to other reasons such as the critical security situation during that period.

IHCR has officially addressed the Ministry of Finance for the purpose of launching financial allocations to resume work and has not received any response because the financial allocations for the academic year 2017/2018 is almost non-existent. A Poverty Reduction Strategy 2018-2022 included the goal of literacy in education activities at a cost of $ 200 million, secured by international grants and government funding.

**Rural women's education** The Ministry of Planning's statistics for 2016 refer to rural women's education as follows: illiteracy rate among rural women (29.5%), only reading (3.8%), reading and writing (21.9%), primary certificate (29.1% (1.0%), postgraduate studies (0.2%), other (0.1%). Through these statistics, the reality of the deprivation of girls in rural areas from education because of lack of schools and poverty, as well as the violence faced by a girl as soon as she reaches self-determination

**Recommendations:**

- Urge the government to re-work on the project to include human rights in educational curricula and at all levels of study and give the human rights sufficient material of teaching units.

- Urge the government to reinstate the campaign to combat illiteracy and fund it with sufficient amounts of money.

- Urge local administrations and the central government to give rural girls education sufficient attention to raise their school enrollment rates.

## Work (40, 41)

The new Labor Law No. 37/2015 was adopted to replace Labor Law No. 71/1987. The law dealt with many aspects of women's rights, especially with respect to equality of work, and the violation of the principle of equal opportunities. It is a positive progress at the national legislative and legal level. Although the working age has been set at 15 years, the Commission has pointed to the increasing phenomenon of child labor for both sexes.

the Commission did not notice any monitoring or deterrent for families who were openly begging which are widespread in all governorates and create a generation of street children due to poor supervision and enforcement in the implementation of the law. The Commission noted that the systematic and permanent inspection and accounting process does not take much place in employment programs.

On the basis of testimonies from a number of women, the Commission noted that women were harassed in public places, official circles, universities and through informal statistics (one case was harassed out of four) and that many women were subjected to sexual harassment without being able to file a complaint because of fear of termination of the contract and the loss of the job and fear for their reputation because of customs and traditions., according to the Ministry of Labor Inspectorate has not submitted any worker so far complaint of sexual harassment, most of women are reluctant to report or disclose harassment. IHCHR also noted that the protection provided by the Labor Code does not include rural women working within the family.Unemployment rates rose between 2014 and 2016, where the unemployment rate for urban women reached 24.8% and in rural areas it was 12.7% in 2014. In 2016, it reached 24.6% in urban and 14.3% in rural areas.

**Recommendations:**

- Urge the government to adopt a coordination mechanism between the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights and the Ministry of Labor by opening an electronic application to receive the complaints of workers and to deliver them to the concerned department after receiving awareness programs of their legal rights.

- Urge the government to adopt a wide-ranging, visual, audio-visual and multi-media campaign at the level of the State of Iraq aimed at combating sexual harassment in the workplace and encouraging women to report such violations, and to open channels to facilitate the access of women workers to justice before the courts.- Urging the government to activate a supervisory role of other kind through the agricultural associations or the provincial councils, human rights offices and civil society organizations under the supervision of a higher institution specialized in the status of women in rural areas, especially with the presentation that the Higher Committee for the Advancement of Rural Women and its tools such as rural women's section in the Ministry of Agriculture. Agricultural work did not produce clear results in the development of this file and the achievements are poor.

## Health (42, 43)

IHCHR has launched the new Reproductive Health Strategy after the completion of the previous strategy 2014-2017 but has been included in the Ministry of Health plan for 2018. It has not been issued as an independent strategy and is considered a negative indicator because it does not give this profile privacy in planning and disbursement.

The Commission noted that the citizen bears the fees of the provision of health service in public hospitals which are not commensurate with the possibility of limited income The IHCHR recorded that one of the young mothers died due to obstetric complications because her parents were unable to pay the fees and they had to return her to give birth at home. This was in a hospital in the districts of Baghdad and the hospital administration proposed to approve the exception of the dangerous cases. IHCHR has addressed the Office of the province of Baghdad and the health ministry to develop alternative solutions.

The Ministry of Health participated in the survey on maternal, child and newborns health in cooperation with UNICEF for the period 2016-2017 and the Ministry of Planning. The results of the survey are as follows: the rate of stillbirths (8.5 per 1000 live births), female to male ratio (11.6%), postpartum (33.0%), maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (30.1 for 2014, 32 for 2015, 36.1 for 2017) . Congenital malformations are the second most common among the top ten causes of child mortality according to the survey, and the percentage of this classification to the rest is 10.1% and 11.9% according to the Ministry of Health's 2017 statistical report.

The Commission noted on the ground that breast cancer is one of the most common types of cancers in the world, including Iraq, due to the reluctance of women to conduct a periodic examination of early detection, especially those over the age of forty and the reason is due to fear and lack of courage to face the results of tests and lack of awareness, especially in rural areas, from total (4529), (4422) females and (107) males are cancerous patients. The latest statistics of the disease of the Department of Health Karkh:

- In 2017 (10) males and (457) females, died (3) males and (145) females.

- In 2018 (5) males and (158) females, died of them (0) males and (33) females.

The Commission noted the establishment of 8 specialized centers for breast cancer in Baghdad in addition to a number of centers to fight all types of cancer, the number of four centers within the public hospitals in Baghdad with 10 centers in the provinces and thus the provinces do not have specialized centers for breast cancer patients in particular.

For the care provided by the Ministry of Health for rural women with regard to breast cancer, it allocates two mobile clinics to the villages between the provinces of Najaf and Basra to conduct a field survey of breast cancer through which a preliminary breast cancer survey is conducted. the Commission considers it a modest procedure not enough to face the seriousness of the disease . The Council for Breast Cancer itself has been concerned about the lack of provision of medication for cancer patients in general and breast cancer in particular.

According to a specialist, there are types of fertilizers and wheat containing mercury used by farmers to increase their agricultural production, which, if eaten as food, can lead to congenital malformations and defects. This matter requires the implementation of awareness sessions for farmers on how to use these substances and to avoid any possible accidents when used.

IHCHR noted that the Poverty Reduction Strategy 2018-2022 set only two targets :for women's reproductive health (training of midwives in poor areas at a cost of $ 600 million and comprehensive health awareness campaigns at a cost of $ 750 million) secured by international grants and government funding.

The Iraqi Penal Code criminalizes abortion in accordance with the provisions of Articles 417, 418 and 419 by punishing a woman who deliberately abortes herself, as well as those who cause abortions, and forbids women from aborting themselves except in specific cases, as the pregnancy is a danger to her life, but the freedom of abortion to determine birth or marital differences is not allowed at all and at the level of social custom pregnancy is still no matter how many children are there is a matter of pride of the family and so the alternative is to intensify family planning programs followed by The Ministry of Health in the primary health centers, especially in areas marked ignorant and poor.

**Recommendations:**

- Urge the government to adopt an independent and specialized reproductive health strategy.

- Urge the government to take into account the beneficiaries of health services in public hospitals and exempting needy families from fees.

- Training specialized medical personnel to be able to deal with minor mothers.

- The government should adopt educational and awareness programs to encourage women to conduct an annual periodic checkup for early detection of potential breast diseases, open specialized centers in the provinces to treat breast cancer patients, intensify family planning programs of the Ministry of Health in primary health centers, especially in rural areas to dealing with abortions.

## Rural Women (44, 45)

The Higher Committee for the Advancement of Rural Women was formed by Decree 481/2011 and was re-formed by Decree No. 30/2017 52 which implemented a number of programs. However, the performance of this committee deteriorated after the cancellation of the Ministry of State for Women Affairs and the events related to Daesh.

Through IHCHR field monitoring of 2017, the lack of support for rural women by the Rural Women Development and Farms Division indicates that there is no financial allocation for rural women in the public budget. These farms have become a burden due to the discontinuation of their production and their transformation into consumption.

On 5/10/2011, the Rural Women's Development Fund was established as part of the agricultural initiative project which aims at supporting rural women (widows and divorced women only). The actual work started on loans on 3/11/2012 where the loan is granted to the age groups (18-50). The loan amount is (5 million) five million Iraqi Dinars without interest;

The Commission noted the suspension of the granting of loans to the agricultural initiative project, including the Fund for the Development of Rural Women since 10/6/2014 because of the terrorist operations of Da'ash which affected a large number of agricultural areas.

The amount of loans granted to rural women for the period from 2013 to 2016 (5645900000) Iraqi dinars and a total of (752) women beneficiaries with no follow-up, evaluation and impact measurement.

On 15/4/2018 the advances for the widows and divorcees segment were launched at a rate of 5-10 million dinars and 8% interest per annum for the implementation of small projects. This initiative is a step towards their economic empowerment, but to a limited degree.

## Widows (46, 47)

According to the results of the Food Security Survey of the Central Statistical Organization (2016), the number of widows 878,455, of which 203,000 are women of different age groups. The number of widows and divorced women in all Iraq except Nineveh, Anbar, Hawija in Kirkuk, Between 14-49 years and 67,5198 50 years of age and older. The number of divorces 122438 , of whom 105,000 were between the ages of 14-49 , and 17,434 aged 50 years and over (food survey).

The Department of Social Protection for Women in the Ministry of Labor is the only authority for the widows segment according to the Social Protection Law No. 11/2014, which includes a new mechanism for dealing with beneficiaries of social protection through their classification according to the poverty line regardless of the status of the beneficiary and the field reports of committees studying the situation.

The Ministry of Labor carried out a large campaign to audit the files covered by social welfare salaries in 2014-2015 and continued for the following years. It has greatly affected hundreds of women headed families and households and caused physical, psychological exhaustion due to the slow and delay in checking the files and disbursing grants, all which indicates negatively the management of this program by the ministries of labor and planning.

The Government has issued some initiatives for the widows segment that have already been introduced (see page 11).

The opening of the Psychological Support Department within the Department of Social Protection for Women and its branches in the governorates needs human and financial nourishment in order to achieve the goal and the importance of implementing intensive programs for the rehabilitation of women in the liberated areas and their integration into society.

The need to strengthen the financial, technical and human capacity of the Department of Social Protection for Women, according to IHCR reports, particularly in the area of ​​rural depth coverage.

The society no longer looks at the widow in a way that diminishes her dignity and diminishes her rights, especially since widows are growing because of the wars and security events suffered by the Iraqi family and are appreciated because they support their family and seek to fill the gap left by men. IHCHR did not record any signs of abnormal behavior against widows and did not receive such complaints.

## Women in detention (48, 49)

The death penalty is based on peremptory judicial decisions and after the stages of the appeal in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Law No. 23/1971 and the Iraqi Penal Code, the decision becomes enforceable and it is difficult to cancel it or amend it unless there is an error during the investigation or trial. Punishment for former governments is difficult to implement except by a republican law or decree amnesty that applies to all men and women, or with a special amnesty. The dialectic of abolishing the death penalty does not have much space for discussion and persuasion because it pertains to the principles of Sharia and custom Based on social reasons.

The Commission has not seen any outstanding efforts at the governmental or community level to address the abolition of the death penalty under the Iraqi Penal Code and women cannot be excluded because the constitutional provision of Article 14 makes Iraqis equal before the law without distinction as to race, color and creed.

In spite of this, the number of death sentences for the period 2014-2018 reached (98) Iraqi individuals, of which 76 were ratified and 32 were unconstitutional. In four years, only one death sentence was executed. In addition,. These women are accompanied by 213 children up to the age of 14, which requires attention to the status of these children.

The prison administration is based on the inmates and inmates reform law No. 14/2018, which includes the rules for the treatment and protection of the rights of prisoners. The field monitoring visits are conducted by the criminal justice teams of the Commission and the most important indicators recorded by the monitoring teams (severe overcrowding in women's prisons and detentions of up to three In some prisons. IHCHR continues to address the Ministry of Justice for the purpose of developing solutions to this problem in order to avoid negative effects on the health, psychological and services aspects of the inmates.

The foreign prisoners section suffers from severe overcrowding, which leads to the spread of diseases and epidemics such as lice and scabies, especially among the children of these prisoners, accompanied by the shortage of medicines and supplies for children. The rehabilitation programs for the inmates are followed, including tailoring, hairdressing and handicrafts, but these programs do not include foreign female prisoners Due to the overcrowding in addition to the language barrier, the Women's Prison Administration provides all the necessary medical, medical, psychological and sleep supplies, bedding and personal hygiene items, as well as the provision of medicines and medical care.

## Women belonging to religious and ethnic minorities (50, 51)

Women Of minorities who exposed to Violations by Daesh :

According to the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs / Department of Yezidis Affairs, until July 2017, the number of Yezidi sects (550,000) decreased after the events of Daesh aggression to about (37000) Ezidi displaced persons. The number of those killed by Daesh was 1269, widows 1759 from the father, 359 from the parents and 407 from the mother. Some 6417 persons were kidnapped (3547 females and 2869 males). (1,092 women, 819 girls, 334 men and 801 children) are whom managed to escape.

 (1581 women and girls and 1714 men and boys) remained under captivity, ie, the number of children in the hands of Daesh (220000). These statistics are still moving based on military operations and travel and Return .The German government sponsored 1,100 survivors of violence who managed to escape. As a result.

As a result, the Government has the following responsibilities:

Second, all survivors need psychological programs and special care to help them integrate into society. This means specialized rehabilitation centers, psychologists and meeting, but the efforts and societal demands did not take a tangible impact on the government despite the existence of projects of this kind at the level of international support to the Ministry of Health.

The Commission addressed the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Health and the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers on the indicators of the report of the United Nations Human Rights Organization (UNAMI), which included a general indicator on the neglect of survivors of violence in the liberated areas and the modest role of the Ministry of Health. the Commission proposed to develop a policy and secure a budget. Planning ministry responded but did not complete what has been started by IHCHR.

Thirdly, the society does not accept the women who have been raped and forced or involuntary married to members of Daesh. The danger of revenge, retaliation and shame is a reality. This requires agreements with the heads of these communities and religious leaders on the establishment of a culture of tolerance. Conferences and educational seminars need finance and provide security.

A more complex problem are children born as a result of sexual crimes or force marriage by women who were in the grip of Daesh gangs and this case requires a legal and procedural effort and funding.

**Government Actions and Efforts:**

Security Council resolutions have provided comprehensive coverage to protect women and girls from sexual violence and give them a role in maintaining security and peace-building, in particular Security Council resolution 1325/2000 and subsequent resolutions up to resolution 2331/2016 on trafficking in women and sexual violence. .

The United Nations signed with the Government of Iraq the Joint Statement on the Prevention of Sexual Violence during the 59th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 23/9/2016, which included legislative and executive items that help survivors of violence to return safely and effectively. There are many common policies to study by The Federal Government represented by the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers / Department of Empowerment of Women and the Government of the Region represented by the Supreme Council for Women and the United Nations represented by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in the event of conflict.

In light of this, an executive plan for the joint statement was launched under the auspices of the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers on 5/3/2018, which requires monitoring and evaluation.

Government and civil society organizations have mobilized to rehabilitate and assist survivors of violence to integrate into society and overcome crises. International organizations and some governments have also sponsored a large number of survivors. The German government has provided treatment for 1100 survivors. (15299) Yazidi women eligible to social welfare benefits (15299) in which (574) women could receive them. The rest are frozen due to emigration. The IHCR believes that it is supposed to re-include those who have not yet been included in this category of displaced persons.

The Cabinet Decision No. 92/2014 considers that the minorities were subjected to genocide. The Commission issued a statement demanding that the government comply with the decision. Despite the decision issued by the government, there is a shortcoming towards this file in the process of redressing the victims of these components (women from rape, kidnapping, captivity and trafficking, requires the need to activate this decision.

The decision of the House of Representatives No. 43/2016, which includes (taking the necessary measures by the government to free the Yazidi abductees, instructing the reconstruction of the Sinjar district and restoring the services and infrastructure, consider the victims of the terrorist acts committed by Daesh martyrs and give their relatives all the rights and privileges enjoyed by this group. the formation of a committee of competent authorities for the purpose of discussing the issue of genocide, that Yezidis had exposed to for the purpose of presenting this case to the International Criminal Court for investigation).

## Marriage and Family Relationships (52, 53)

The Personal Status Law regulates the age of marriage, specifying it at the age of 18, with exceptions allowing for early marriage at the age of 15 and the maximum need for those who have not attained 15 years of age under certain conditions, the most important of which is physical fitness and financial capacity (7.8 cases). That the marriage of the young is parallel to the normal marriage in terms of facilitating the procedures and granting permission and appeal to it, which requires reviewing the judicial procedures and giving them greater power to achieve the objective of the exception and Prevent its transformation into a base.

Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Plan **(recommendation 56)**

Indicators of the Ministry of Planning for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015): 61

First, the Ministry of Planning / Central Bureau of Statistics issued two reports in 2012-2013 showing some achievements and a number of indicators registered to achieve some of the objectives of the development goals, explaining why these goals were not achieved during the wars and security disturbances as a result of the offensive gangs of Daesh that continued to affect fulfilling the goals that were targeted for the years 2014-2015, where the budget was not approved to implement the activities and therefore Iraq was unable to reach the targets in 2015.

A statistical report was issued on the 2017 sustainable development goals, the most important resources of it were the 2016 Food Security Survey, the technical directorates of the updated Central Statistical Organization, and the statements of the Secretariat of Baghdad and the relevant ministries. The report included the following challenges:

1 The poverty rate increased to 22.5% and the number of the poor reached 8 million, 36% of whom are new poor from the occupied cities.

2 Increase in rural-to-city migration rates and outbreaks of informal sector employment.

3 The decline of the role of the private sector and the inability to absorb unemployed job seekers.

4. Irrational population inflation, lack of adaptation to natural resources and increased demand for environmental resources and services.

5. Randomized urban expansion that lacks basic services.

6. The emergence of negative phenomena such as transgressing the law, tribal conflicts and drug abuse, which is a challenge to development policy

1. weak enforcement of some legislation and laws related to the agenda of sustainable development goals.
2. Weak Media Role in Agenda 2030.

Agenda 2030: The sustainable development agenda is based on the achievement of development goals as a starting line for the future: "Building a society free from poverty and disease with basic and complementary services that respects human rights and dignity, values ​​women, equals her to men and protects children, decent work opportunities for all and deals with sustainable consumption and production patterns, development of life and technology in a climate-sensitive and respectful manner. In the analysis of the agenda, the objectives (1-6) are not far from the scope of work and activities of the High Commission for Human Rights The remaining objectives are related to the methods of dealing with energy sources and management in such a way that ensures the individual's access to the well-being and sustainability of future generations, which cannot be bypassed because it is the foundation of the task to achieve the third generation of human rights in the environment The indicators of the Ministry of Planning indicate that the process of implementing the goals of the agenda is slow and the goals can not be achieved according to the time limits.

## Accession to the Optional Protocol and Ratification of Other Treaties (54) (59)

The Commission hopes that the Government and the Council of Representatives will adopt the task of creating the conditions and the legislative reasons for joining the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. What the Government report referred to in paragraph 350 raises questions about the steps currently being taken by the Government to integrate this theme into its national legislation.

That the individual complaints received by the Commission on the basis of Article 5 of Law No. 53 of 2008 are taking all the investigative procedures and submitted to the government agencies concerned to redress the complainants and all that falls within the context of national mechanisms despite that the level of response of those issues is not the level of ambition. Access to judicial and governmental remedies, especially in the application of laws whose provisions do not conform to human rights standards is difficult, and therefore there is a need to accede to the Optional Protocol, and the International Committee on the Convention.

**Applications and Indicators:**

Statistics indicate:

(15135) early marriages cases, (5502) cases of divorce in 2016 and (15908) early marriage cases, (5210) cases of divorce in 2017, the stability or relative increase in the number of early marriages between these two indicators shows the lack of surrounding the phenomenon with the necessary care to reduce it.

The figures are high . In comparison, it is important to consider population data. This is considered to be a deficiency in the database of judicial institutions, which is prepared for analysis and comparison not for archiving purposes only. This does not help in producing results that help observers, preparing studies or empowerment policies.

The total number of divorce cases for the whole of Iraq during the year 2017 (70097), the rate of a virtual account (5841) cases per month. in 2018 (69055) divorce cases, (5754) cases per month, As an indicator of a problem that may lead to violations of the human rights of the Iraqi family, especially women and children.

The Commission noted the importance of gender in the preparation of the database relating to the age of marriage and divorce. it obtained a positive indicator in the last visit to the judicial institution where the monitoring teams recorded the establishment of a database in the courts including statistics according to the age of marriage and the age of divorce for both sexes in implementation of the Supreme Judicial Council, Statistics on marriage contracts and decisions of separation.

The Commission considers that the procedures of personal status courts need to be reviewed and self-controlled because the accounting process in accordance with Article 10 of the Personal Status Law does not deter individuals because of the formal procedures of asking the wife to file a legal complaint against her husband who accompanies her for the purpose of ratifying the marriage certificate.

IHCHR aspires to raise the minimum ceiling for the marriage of minors and children for one year by amending the personal status law, which is in line with the international recommendation and is in line with the best interests of the child.

The phenomenon of polygamy is a complex social issue. The law defines its determinants according to the provisions of Article III / 4 of the Personal Status Law, which is limited to the judge's authorization and after the availability of the conditions of financial sufficiency, legitimate interest and ensuring justice between spouses. Undoubtedly, marriage is more than one’s right it has its psychological effects on the first wife and children and the social effects of family disintegration and the occurrence of divorce sometimes. The awareness and education processes will not find much resonance to reduce the clinging of male to this right. However, the intensification of counseling and awareness-raising efforts for women on how to deal within the family environment with husband and children and ways to create a healthy and socially comfortable environment for the head of the family may lead to a stable relationship. The activists in the social aspect and human development do not make relevant initiatives on this subject. There are no programs of social awareness and human development.

## Beijing Declaration and Platform

Iraq submitted a preliminary report in 2000 and then submitted a comprehensive report to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action + 20 (1995-2013) (II, III and IV), which included progress in the area of ​​women's empowerment and the identification of current obstacles and challenges and identification of appropriate strategies to eliminate their Obstacles and achieve equality.

The report identified the priorities that Iraq will have in the future in order to advance the status of women, which are not outside the framework of the observations of the International Committee of the Convention, namely:

1. activating the strategy for the advancement of women. (This strategy has not been reached to the level of ambition until the end of the specified time limit with the proposal that the government is announcing a new strategy for the period 2018-2022).
2. To complete the work on the National Development Plan 2014-2017 (the plan faced many challenges which led to modest outputs due to security conditions)
3. Completion of the implementation of the National Strategy for Education and Higher Education 2011-2020 / These strategies faced challenges and obstacles to achieving their objectives.
4. Continuation of the implementation of the provisions of the National Strategy for Reproductive Health and Mother and Child Health 2013-2017 / already explained.
5. Inclusion of the draft Iraqi Child Law / Not ratified and still under implementation.
6. Follow-up the law against domestic violence / has not yet been ratified and explained.
7. Seventh: Stabilizing the share of women in leadership positions in the draft political parties law
8. Raising the representation of the Ministry of State for Women's Affairs into an independent governmental institution / which has already been explained.
9. Establishment of the National Authority for the Care of Persons with Special Needs The Authority was established by Law No. 38/2013.
10. . Establishment of the Social Protection Authority / previously explained.

Although the Beijing Platforms emphasize and reinforce the principles of the Convention, the Commission did not note that it has placed the attention of policy makers as an important and comprehensive source that strengthens the legal force of the provisions of the Convention and remains far from exploiting all that can be used to chart policies for the empowerment of women.

## Technical assistance

Some executive institutions have received international technical assistance at the level of preparing policies and programs of training staff responsible for the management of the rights files under the Convention. These efforts have contributed to the development of women's intellectual capacity in the files of women's empowerment. At the planning, monitoring, evaluation and impact measurement level, The recommendations of the monitoring teams focused on the lack of sufficient information in the institutions regarding the plans and directives of the implementation of the contents, objectives and recommendations on social protection, education, health, relief, basic services and other related issues.

# General Recommendations

1) Demanding both the Government and the Council of Representatives to work immediately on the establishment of a sovereign ministry for women's affairs and under a law establishing the goals, tasks and mechanisms that promote Iraqi women and enable them to achieve de facto equality.

2) To request the government and the parliament to re-examine the formation of a committee to amend the constitutional and legislative texts to consider the selection of its members from decision makers, including human rights and women's rights, and the obligations stipulated in international treaties and conventions.

3) Demanding both the government and parliament to take serious and positive steps towards eliminating the legal wrongs in the Iraqi Penal Code that encourage discrimination and violence against women, as explained in the report, remove the reservation to Article 2 / g, and to work on preparing tribal communities to recognize gender equality and the results are evaluated by a supervisory committee, taking into account partial sending reports to the National Committee to include the level of development resulting from the implementation of these plans..

4) Demanding the Parliament to urge the Higher Judicial Council to review its executive mechanisms applicable in personal status courts in relation to articles 9 and 10 of the Personal Status Law No. 158 of 1959 in a manner that ensures control over the work of the private marriage offices with the legalization of the work of those offices.

5. To request the Government to provide logistical support and coordinate with the Supreme Judicial Council to restructure family courts and human trafficking courts and to train their staff, including judges, investigators and law enforcement officials.

6) Request the parliament to draft the law on protection against domestic violence within the list of priorities in the review and ratification within a time frame not exceeding the first chapter of 2019 and amend it to achieve the purpose of its proposal.

7) To request the government to allocate sufficient funds to include all families headed by women with social protection.

8) Request the government to urge the Ministry of Planning to issue an annual report on the level of development of the outputs of the implementation of the strategy of poverty alleviation and re-classification of the poverty criterion in a more flexible perspective consistent with the principle of guaranteeing all human rights and family status.

9) Request the government to activate the file of combating illiteracy through allocating sufficient funds to re-implement literacy programs especially in the districts according to the gender perspective and activate the project of integrating human rights curricula within the educational curricula.

10) Requesting the government to re-evaluate the level of implementation by its institutions of the plans of Security Council resolution 1325/3000 to achieve the objective of the resolution, especially during the next phase of the protection of women and girls for the period after the armed conflict.

11) Request the government to work on the establishment of advanced centers for the psychological rehabilitation of women survivors of violence in all affected provinces as a result of wars and developing productive mechanisms to attract survivors .

12) Request the government to form a special institution or body to watch the rights of rural women run by experts on human rights.

13) To ask the government to establish policies for compensating the victims of the wars.

14) Requesting the government to put in place effective and correct executive mechanisms to resolve the problem of service institutions in the governorate offices and work on developing effective solutions to resolve the conflict between the governorate bureau and the relevant executive ministries and instructing the Ministry of Health and Environment to reconsider the decision of taking fees for health services in government hospitals.

# High Commission for Human Rights

# Baghdad 2019.