

Kurdistan Region - Iraq
Council of Ministers
High Council of Women Affairs

Women in Conflict Zones

Kurdistani Women and Their Role in Facing Terrorism

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November – 2016
Erbil - Kurdistan Region – Iraq

This research paper was presented in a conference (The Role of Women in Arab Countries and the Paths of Reform and Change) held by the Arab Women Organization in collaboration with the League of Arab States (LAS) from the 14th-15th of December, 2016 in the Egyptian capital, Cairo.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My thanks and appreciation to the listed individuals below for their efforts in printing this book:

- Ms. Florin Gorgis, Director General of the Diwan of the High Council for Women Affairs.
- Mr. Dler Ibrahim Ismail, Director of Media and Relations in the Council
- Mr. Yasin Sardar, Director of Administration in the Council
- Mr. Christian Tabet, International Relations Expert.

Preface

Enhancing the role of women in the processes of reform, change, combating terrorism, the ideology of extremism and violence is of exceptional importance in the current situation in our region. This role of women can be effective in eliminating obstacles to these processes and building a community culture that supports this trend and supports the effective participation of women in public affairs. This role of women can also be effective in confronting the challenges faced by refugee and displaced women victims of violence and terrorism.

In such situations, where the region is gripped by waves of violence, extremism, terrorism, and whose effects reach different parts of the world, women have the greatest burden of being a citizen first (although their citizenship is incomplete) and being a responsible mother for the household (the social role entrusted to them). They are required to play an active role in resisting terrorism and extremism simultaneously while seeking to play their role in the family and as a mother.

The United Nations and other international organizations have taken an interest in this matter, as reflected in many UN resolutions and

recommendations aimed at empowering women and providing them with opportunities in times of violence and conflict. This is in addition to national mechanisms and actions.

However, through the facts and realities of living in the face of terrorism and extremism, the fragile situation of women and their position in our homelands appears starkly. This situation calls for a halt to the matter taking into account the cultural structure of the region, which perpetuates blatant discrimination between women and men.

There is a severe lack of monitoring of the special and unforeseen aspects of women's needs in such situations, which can be clearly discerned in the delivery of services in IDP camps and refugees, and in other aspects of their communities.

This also calls for stopping the issue of this prevention, which starts from empowerment programs in conjunction with the provision of opportunities in normal situations as a continuous process before wars and conflicts. The most important thing is to insist on institutionalizing the issue of women in our countries through international and regional partnerships and support among different mechanisms and authorities. Joint research is also important in order to address this reality and confront future

impacts on our societies and future generations in general; specifically women's role in current and future challenges in particular.

This paper comes as a modest contribution in this field. In addition to the official documents used, it is the result of live observations, the live reality, constant contact with survivors of intimidation and a number of displaced families in various areas of Iraqi Kurdistan, as well as refugee families. It is also the result of a close knowledge of the suffering and difficulties in addition to the challenge and perseverance to change the bitter reality, contribute to the reconstruction of what was destroyed and restore peace, security and stability to their areas.

The essence of this paper was presented at the conference "Role of Women in the Arab States and the Reform and Change Processes" held by the Arab Women Organization in cooperation with the League of Arab States from 14th-15th/12/2016 in Egypt's capital, Cairo.

Before concluding, I would like to thank my colleague in the High Council of Women Affairs, the General Directorate of Yazidi Affairs in the Ministry Of Endowments and Religious Affair in the Kurdistan Regional Government and responsible figures in government departments who contributed in providing information to enrich this paper.

All the admiration of the girl and women survivors of Daesh for their courage to advance their cause and their willingness to work in building a future without the menace of terrorism, violence and extremism.

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Abstract

This paper examines the increasing role of women in developing societies and points at the double life of women in these societies; marginalization on the one hand, and their aspirations to play an active role in development operations and all current operations in society.

It also refers to the forms of solidarity and coordination to achieve peace and stability, and stresses the importance of empowering women and integrating them into the development processes. It highlights the importance of institutionalizing the issue of women through the programs of the relevant official institutions and the importance of a special institution for formulating policies, programs and strategies for the state at large or at the level of government.

The research paper highlights the negative impact of conflicts on women in particular and the society at large and ways to confront them.

The paper includes statistics, figures and live testimonies from state institutions in general and civil society organizations as well.

It concludes with a summary and identifies a number of recommendations.

INTRODUCTION

The Increasing Role of Women in Developing Societies.

When examining the role of women in the operations that take place in any society, it is necessary to do so in the context of the socioeconomic development levels, cultural structure, historical legacies, prevailing ideas and those that continuously arise, within the said level of that society.

The lives of women in the Arab region are generally characterized by severe duplication.

On the one hand, they suffer from discrimination, marginalization, violence and the stereotypical role of the family and society. They also suffer from exclusion and neglect in development policies and programs, and are largely distanced from interaction and partnership in administrations, policy-making and decision-making. The same applies in issues related to human rights, citizenship rights, democracy-building programs; women lack support and appropriate opportunities, especially for family heads, where women continue to be the poorest in this area.

On the other hand, women aspire and look forward to play an active role in the development

processes and management of society as a real partner; in addition to wanting their role in the family to be stronger, more active and effective.

In spite of all this, as a result of women's self-determination and through civic activities in recent years in particular, women have had a tangible presence in a number of regions and countries through their social, cultural, administrative, administrative participation (participation and not partnership) despite the imposed economic and political factors, including:

1. The move towards working outside the house to support family income which implies enjoying a margin of freedom, mixture and the use of technology.
2. The needs of development operations in the countries of the region to follow the global development in various fields of technology, industry, agriculture, culture and others.
3. Expanding and spreading the concepts of women's equality, emphasizing the importance of integrating women's issues into a comprehensive development operations and focusing on empowering women as a central focus in the human development process.

4. Linking the issue of democracy and human rights more and more women's rights and participation.
5. The tendency of the people from the region to develop in a civil dimension (after the crisis).

The international conventions and decisions relating to human rights, women's rights and the development goals of the international organization have been strengthened through the establishment of special points and targets for women (the Millennium Development Goals and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations).

The capacity to use technology has helped these ideas and concepts reach wider audiences in the region, including women.

In developing societies, many civil society organizations, research centers, awareness centers, cultural and intellectual events and other similar institutions have emerged including women's participation. These institutions receive technical and financial support from international organizations and exchange experiences, including visits outside the country. There are many plans and programs for empowering women and empowering the community to realize the importance of women's rights and their actual participation.

At the official level, women's councils or ministries have been set up in various countries to formulate policies and strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and to oversee the plans of the institutions concerned to implement these policies and follow up on the work of these institutions.

Women's struggles have led to the rise of percentages of women in parliaments and local councils, either by quota or not, as well as in the leadership of parties and organizations. This is in order to ensure women's participation in decision-making positions.

In situations of widespread violence, terrorism and extremism, women play a significant role in confronting these situations, addressing all forms of violence and extremism, and advocating for the preservation of the social fabric, cohesion and social solidarity.

This is particularly evident in the large services provided to refugees, displaced persons and the consideration of the special needs of women and children. Women play a greater role in providing these services, including living, daily or health services (physical and psychological), as well as spiritual and educational aspects of children and events.

Despite the positive role of women in public affairs and their significant role in situations of violence, terrorism, extremism and addressing the raising challenges and risks; each of these areas in which women contribute exist large gaps, challenges and difficulties to expand and raise the level of partnership.

Forms of Solidarity, Cooperation and Coordination to Achieve Peace and Stability:

Despite the fact that women are have additional burdens in times of conflict and war, and despite all the suffering and severe war they face, women in developing societies, including the Arab region, have come to play their role as being responsible of the entire family, and work outside the household in the absence of men. In such cases, local communities accept this role. One of the salient features of conflict and war is the solidarity and cooperation between civil society organizations in general and national, regional and international women's organizations in order to achieve peace and security.

Since the last decade of the last century, women's struggles in Arab organizations have expanded to achieve the rights of equality, development and equal opportunity. Thus, many civil organizations have been formed in different

countries at the official level, such as national mechanisms (ministries, councils, etc.) to improve women's situation, empower and integrate them into national policies and strategies towards equality. In fact, there have been significant gains in national legislation and procedures, which have had a positive impact on the practice of women in a greater and more effective role in the context of extremism, terrorism, displacement and women's vulnerability to abduction and captivity. Women are prominent in providing services and raising awareness among IDPs and refugees, especially between women and children.

Conflicts and Its Negative Effects on Peace of the Community:

There is no doubt that the growth and prosperity of any society is achieved by the availability of security, stability in and the absence of war and conflict. One of the keys for this growth and prosperity is to ensure civil peace or community peace; whereas under the conditions of security stability and community peace, development processes continue and escalate with the needs of the community so that some of the things that were once considered a luxury become a basic need for the human being. The level of awareness among its members is

raising and is increasing the well-being of individuals. Therefore, their potential for creativity in various areas is strengthened by the application of the principles of democracy and human rights. Children also enjoy sound health and education that create a healthy generation capable of building a solid foundation. This also applies for women and men in the achievement of justice and equality in their social status, rights and others.

Many countries of the Arab region have suffered from dictatorships and unjust policies against their people. They have led to political and social tensions that have generated violence, which have been the result of sharp polarization, conflict, sectarian, ethnic and tribal extremism and terrorism. These conditions affect the unity of peoples and are exploited in favor of foreign alliances that undermine all civil and cultural achievements, where the social fabric is deeply rooted, provoking revenge in various ways. The inhabitants of cities, towns and entire villages are displaced, destroyed, burned, mines planted, storage places of abandoned weapons, the smell of gunpowder, death and mass graves are spread that violate sanctities. All this leads to more societal division, which may have effects for decades.

Women Victims of Violence and Conflict:

Women have become a weapon in these wars and conflicts, which have been exploited to break the opposite side and their dignity. They have been exposed to sexual slavery, sold, bought, forced into pregnancy by the kidnapper and owner etc...

Terrorist groups boast of their actions towards women and regard them as part of the victory over the other side.

The United Nations has turned its attention to this situation and has issued numerous resolutions on the situation of women in conflict situations, notably resolution 1325, which emphasizes prevention, protection and participation for women in conflict situations.

Prevention must come before conflicts erupt through empowerment, equality of opportunity and non-violence in all its forms, especially domestic violence.

As for protection in times of conflict, the concerned parties and the military must consider the presence of women and children in the areas where the party is located and the special needs of women in their plans to face terrorism in order to reduce losses.

It also requires engaging women in political processes of reconciliation and negotiation.

The suffering of children in situations of war and conflict is profound. A full generation can be created and influenced by extremism and be out of school. Living in tents deprives them of the most basic necessities of life, not to mention the practice of childhood.

The First Topic

Political Violence in Iraq

Iraq is a pluralistic country with diverse nationalities, sects, religious communities and includes political pluralism since long time ago. Iraq is a country with a profound civilization. It contains vast natural resources, human wealth and significant competencies in various fields. Iraq is a country with all possibilities and opportunities for its people to live a safe and prosperous life. However, Iraq is now a devastated country with about 10 percent of its population living in camps that lack the most basic necessities of life or are displaced outside their homes and residences. Poverty levels are also increasing to unprecedented levels. Furthermore, unemployment threatens the future of a high percentage of youth, as illiteracy threatens hundreds of thousands of children.

FIRST REQUIREMENT:

Situation of women in the Kurdistan Region - Iraq.

Section I:

Situation of the Kurdistan women before the occupation of the Daesh:

Kurdistani women have achieved quite a few achievements since the nineteen nineties. This has been reflected in a number of legislation, decisions, institutions, the expansion of the scope and development of women's organizations and in their orientation toward specialization.

The Kurdistan Regional Government has given early attention to the participatory contribution of women in various fields and has been lifting obstacles to empower and activate their role. This has been reflected in a number of legislation, laws, governmental procedures and the establishment of the High Council for Women Affairs in the Kurdistan Regional Government in 2010. This council is under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister and includes the membership of a number of concerned ministers.

This has already been done. The establishment of a Directorate General of the Ministry of the Interior to combat violence against women (29 offices, 17 mobile teams, 6 directorates) in different cities of the region.

After the issuance of the law against domestic violence in 2011⁽¹⁾, the courts of violence against

(1) Law No. (8) of 2011 (law against domestic violence in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq).

women were formed by the Judicial Council.⁽¹⁾
There are a number of safe houses to shelter survivors of violence and solve their problems.⁽²⁾

There also is the appointment of a coordinator in the ministries concerned as linked members with the High Council for Women Affairs and the formation of gender units in the ministries in addition to the plans of the ministries in women's affairs each according to their competence.

There are (2890) civil society organizations (180), including women's organizations.

The direction of the Kurdistan Regional Government - Iraq depends on activating the role of women and lifting the obstacles before them on a number of grounds, that take into consideration the current reality, role and place of women in it. This direction of the Kurdistan Regional Government - Iraq must also consider women's future aspirations, from a transformative perspective, in a comprehensive development process, which it requires to develop democracy

(1) There are three special courts for domestic violence in Erbil, Suleimaniya and Dohuk.

(2) There are five centers for sheltering survivors of violence: three of them belong to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk. One in Sulaymaniyah belonging to a civil society organization, one in Klar belonging to the Ministry of the Interior, and a temporary station to shelter the survivors for a period not exceeding (72) hours until referred to the centers of Sulaymaniyah.

and promote the realization of the principles of human rights, including woman's rights.

The most prominent of these are mentioned below:

1. Linking the issue of women's rights in general to the process of comprehensive and sustainable development and integrating the empowerment of women into human development strategies.
2. The task of empowering women is not confined to one governmental body, but part of the task of government ministries. Hence, the ministries of the region are involved in the programs of the High Council for Women Affairs in planning, implementation and follow-up.
3. Considering the issue of women's empowerment as a community issue. This requires strengthening partnership and cooperation with civil society organizations, international organizations and UN agencies.
4. Expanding community-based civic education programs as well as being part of the formal curriculum at the educational levels.
5. Linking the issue of the empowerment of women with the concept of human rights,

the adoption of international charters and standards on women's rights.

There are certainly quite a few obstacles to women's empowerment programs in general as there are only a few opportunities for their success.

Section II: The Situation of Women in Kurdistan After the Occupation of Daesh

The political and security developments after the occupation of the terrorist organization Daesh of a vast part of Iraq (estimated at more than a third of Iraq), led to various changes in the way of life of Iraqis in general and forced more than three million Iraqis to leave their areas of residence in the provinces of Anbar, Salahuddin, Diyala, Nineveh and the outskirts of Kirkuk.

In the summer of 2014 the Kurdistan Region of Iraq unexpectedly faced extraordinary complex conditions during a short period of time, displacing hundreds of thousands of citizens from various provinces of Iraq and tens of thousands of refugees from neighboring countries. This happened at a time when there was fierce fighting between the Peshmerga forces and the Iraqi army on the one hand and Daesh on the other, a few kilometers from the borders of the large cities that received the displaced and the

refugees. Thousands of residents of the areas under the control of Daesh were abducted, most of them women and children, in the areas of Sinjar and the Nineveh plain, especially against the Kurds, Yezidis, Christians, Shabak, Alkakaiah and others. This put the responsibility on the official and non-official bodies to rescue those who were abducted, kidnapped and moved to other areas, such as Mosul, Raqqa and Tal Afar.

The number of displaced to the Kurdistan Region in the summer of 2014 reached more than two million people, the majority of them women and children, in addition to more than 250,000 refugees and refugees from neighboring countries living in the camps.⁽¹⁾

In a study, it appears that the rate of review of government hospitals rose to 300% (including displaced persons and displaced women who review hospitals). The poverty rate in the Kurdistan Region was the lowest in Iraq at 4%. However, this percentage increased in a short period to 12.5%. The same happened in terms of unemployment,⁽²⁾ educational services (schools and universities), water, electricity and sewage services, as well as to combating violence and ensuring security, the proportions of all these areas have increased to rates that are even difficult to secure the bare minimum.

In the study on the effects of Daesh on the Nineveh Plain and Sinjar province, which is inhabited by a majority of Yezidis and Christians, we refer to the following period from 3/8/2014 to 5/8/2016.⁽³⁾

The number of Yazidis in Iraq were 550,000 people. After the attack (by Daesh) on their villages and cities and their forced displacement,

(1) Children orphaned of the father, 1759 children.

(2) Children orphaned of the mother, 407 children.

(3) Children orphaned of both parents, 359 children.

nearly 360,000 people were displaced to the Kurdistan Region, especially from the Sinjar province.

The number of martyrs killed by the attack was 1293.

The terrorist attack on the Yezidis left a large number of orphans and children as follows:

The total number of orphaned children is 2,745 children.

In the course of the terrorist attack, a number of mass graves of Yezidis were left behind, some of which were discovered in Shankal including 30 mass graves to date.

The number of religious shrines destroyed by Daesh is 44 shrines.

Since their first entry into the Yezidi areas, they have kidnapped citizens, men, women and children.

- The total number of abductees is 6413 citizens
- The number of females and children kidnapped is 3543
- The number of males kidnapped is 2870

* The region contains about 47% of them and is about 28% of the population of the region. There are 230 thousand registered as displaced in the

provinces of the region that were displaced after the fall of the former regime in 2003. The number of those who fled in 2014 is 450 million from the various provinces of Iraq to Kurdistan. These include 1 million Arabs, 450,000 of Kurds, 255 thousand of the Faily, 7200 Turkmen, more than 5,000 Assyrians, 14,000 Chaldeans, 42,000 Syrians and 47 of the Shabak. The population of Shaqlawa is 250 thousand, which includes 35,000 displaced persons.

A significant number of abductees have been released as follows:

- The total number of survivors of the grip of Daesh is 2652
- Number of women survivors is 956
- Number of surviving men is 328
- Number of female children is 678
- Number of male children is 690

There are 3,761 people still under the grip of Daesh, including 1909 females and 1852 males.

This statistic is from 15/8/2016 and is subject to change.

There are currently 1,800,000 displaced and displaced persons and more than 200,000 refugees and refugees living in the Kurdistan Region (this number is changing rapidly, especially in the movement of displaced persons). The majority of the displaced live outside the camps.

The Duhok governorate has received the largest number of displaced people (in the summer of 2014, their presence in the city of Dohuk, the center of the province, was much more than the population of the city).

About 62% of IDPs live in Dohuk, 32% in Erbil, and 15% in Sulaymaniyah. ⁽¹⁾ (4)

In view of the prevailing societal culture, the most serious social issue facing Kurdistan's society is the abduction of women and girls from the Shankal and Nineveh regions, especially Yezidis, as sex slaves, selling them as gifts and the prospects of sending some of them to remote areas. The possibility of the presence of abductees in combat zones is an important issue that must be dealt with cautiously in areas of military operations.

The High Council for Women's Affairs warned about this issue and the need to provide a safe and dignified environment for women and girls who are being rescued from the terrorist organization Daesh. The Yazidi Spiritual Council issued a statement on 6/2/2015 confirming the need to receive and respect the survivors. This has a significant impact on the societal perception of these women. ^{(2)*}

(1)

(2)Statement by the Religious Reference of the All-Yazidis in the world / Issue No. 28, dated 6/2/2015 Signed by: Pope Sheikh Hazto Haji

The Second Requirement: Testimony of a number of women on the practices of Daesh in the occupied territories.

Section I:

- The First Witness

A witness from the village of Tal Qasab (North of Shankal-Sinjar) talks about the morning of 02/08/2014, where Daesh attacked the community with mortars. Another witness stated that the population of the community was about 2500 to 3000 families and the villagers were not aware of the attack. A number of men, along with a number of Peshmerga, tried to repel the attack. They fought for three hours and were unable to continue because their weapons did not exceed light weapons. At nine in the morning the villagers fled and on the escape route saw the men who attacked their village. A neighboring village (she says) was dressed in Afghan dress. The witness and her family tried to climb Mount Sinjar. On the way, they encountered two white cars who stopped them and asked them not to flee. The witness and her family were told if they abandoned their religion and converted to Islam, they would save their lives.

Ismail, the spiritual father and religious reference of the Yazidis in the world.

Witness witnessed this until 9 months ago (interview in August 2016).

Section II:

- The Second Witness

Another testimony from a 27-year-old woman from Shankal (Sinjar) was with six other girls who had been treated badly. She did not know them, but they were married. They were forced to convert to Islam and pray daily. One day the guards were busy with telephones. They walked on foot for two days and arrived at the village (Ramis). They managed to get a phone and contact one of their brothers (describing the escape route) until they reached one of the Peshmerga sites in Jabal Sinjar. ⁽¹⁾

Section III:

- The Third Witness

A Christian woman born in 1962.

On August 7, 2014, she said: We escaped from the Qarqosh / Al-Hamdaniya district. My sister and husband were captured and sent to Mosul. My sister contacted my mother in November 2014. After that, we did not hear anything about her and her fate remains unknown. (Report of the Shlomo Documentation Organization 12/4/2016). ⁽²⁾

(1) A report from the Awam Organization of Kurdistan / August 2016 (first and second witnesses)

(2) Report from Shlomo Documentation Organization 12/4/2016 (Certificate III)

The Second Topic

In this context, the programs of civil organizations and government institutions aimed at saving the victims by providing services to displaced persons and refugees, drawing up plans for supporting the lives of abductees during military operations, receiving survivors from families, providing a minimum of psychological, health and living conditions among other tasks imposed by the new situation.

To make a quick comparison between the programs and projects of official and non-official institutions concerned with women's affairs in the Kurdistan region before and after the war with Daesh, we will refer to the basic programs before Daesh entered the region.

The First Requirement:

The National Plan for the Implementation of Resolution 1325⁽¹⁾ has been built on six pillars to work with assigning the concerned parties with implementation, follow-up, sectoral actions and plans with the strategic objectives of each pillar. The six pillars are:

Pillar I: Participation of Women in all Decision-making Processes

(1) Approved in April 2015 by the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq.

Objective: To enhance the impact of women's rights in negotiations, civil peace and political decision-making.

Pillar II: Protection and Prevention

Objective: To improve women's living conditions, ensure their rights, services and access to services.

Pillar III: Promoting the Resolution

Objective: To integrate resolution 1325 with programs at the national level.

Pillar IV: Social and Economic Empowerment

Objective: To achieve better economic conditions and greater independence for women in Iraq.

Pillar V: Legislation and Law Enforcement

Objective: To harmonize national legislation with international standards and mechanisms.

Pillar VI: Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation

Objective: The implementation of the National Plan of Action for Resolution 1325 should be supported by all actors.

The plan has been approved by the federal government and the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq (without allocating a special budget for its implementation).

The Second Requirement:

National Strategy Plan for the Development of Women in the Region:

Spanning over a period of 10 years (2016-2026), the National Strategy Plan is focused on strengthening efforts to empower women. The areas of legislation, laws and areas of education, public health and reproductive health, have identified participation and empowerment of women in the economic and political sphere as well as in decision-making.

Institutional mechanisms for implementation, follow-up and evaluation have also been identified (the strategy was based on analysis of official data and data of civil organizations, both domestic and international).

**Third Requirement:
Plan of the High Council for Women's Affairs
(2012-2015):⁽¹⁾**

It included three priorities:

1) Promote and activate women's participation in decision-making positions.

2) Activation of laws on women's rights and supporting judicial institutions in this regard.

3) Follow gender sensitive policies in the allocation of budgets.

Programs and projects of civil society organizations have focused on empowerment issues, participation in development processes and decision-making.

**Fourth Requirement:
Government institutions and civil society
organizations:**

Governmental institutions and civil society organizations were involved in the preparation of sectoral plans of the ministries and sectors concerned to implement the National Plan for Resolution 1325 and to study the recommendations of CEDAW and implement them (meeting with the delegation of Iraq in February 2014). They were also involved in

(1) The plan was updated by the end of 2015 to add two paragraphs: a. Support the needs of displaced women and refugees through realistic plans and programs b. Economic empowerment of women.

engaging in private projects (the strategic plan for the development of women in the Kurdistan Region and the strategy against violence against women) and plans for the economic empowerment of women etc...

Changing priorities in the work of government institutions and civil society organizations:

In the summer of 2014, all governmental and civil institutions rearranged their priorities, so that the issue of displaced persons, abductees, displaced children, homeless and the family (as a result of terrorism) becomes a priority in the programs of the ministries, concerned institutions and civil society organizations. These include women, international organizations, UN agencies and donor countries. From there on, there has been a brief halt in the regular programs of these institutions in order to put most of the attention to the issues created by the new situation.

A contingency plan has been prepared, supplemented by the National Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (entitled Emergency Plan for Security Council Resolution 1325 / Sector Plan for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq).

It is based on a number of basic pillars:

1. Respect the civilian and humanitarian character of IDP camps and take into account the special needs of women in the design of these camps.
2. Develop specific mechanisms to protect displaced women survivors of violence.
3. Adoption of exceptional policies and procedures to ensure the return of abducted women and missing persons during conflict and military operations.
4. Take all necessary measures to ensure prompt and effective investigations by independent human rights bodies and competent authorities to consider complaints by displaced women.
5. Full implementation of the law in order to redress and protect survivors of abduction or sexual violence and provide legal assistance by adopting Iraqi and international laws in times of conflict and military operations and punishing perpetrators.
6. Economic and social empowerment of displaced women through the use of human resources available at displaced sites.
7. Ensure the return of displaced people safely and ensure a minimum of decent life.

In the summer of 2014, a paragraph was added emphasizing the drawing up of plans and programs on the situation of displaced women in the first place, as well as the gender-sensitive budget paragraph.

For the relevant ministries:

The Ministry of Education established classes in primary and secondary schools for Syrian refugees, which are being taught in Arabic, with the provision of teachers from the refugees themselves and textbooks in Arabic.

The Ministry of Education has also established the opening of new schools for the displaced inside and outside of the camps in the province of Erbil. They have allocated 19 plots of land to build schools in the areas of the displaced.

In Sulaymaniyah there are 4 schools for the displaced and refugees, 30 appointed teachers and 6 administrators.

The Ministry of Interior (Directorate-General for Combating Violence Against Women) has set up mobile teams in the camps to combat violence against women.

The same goes for the Ministries of Health, Labor and Social Affairs, Municipalities, Agriculture, Electricity in this regards and other ministries that provide housing, electricity, water, sewage, etc... They also psychological, legal support centers,

rehabilitation, health, education and daily living centers of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs Centers,^{(1)*} psychological and social support for children, primary health centers to receive survivors of kidnapping in Dohuk and provide health services for them.

These services have been provided in cooperation with the support of international organizations and United Nations agencies, but there is a heavy burden on infrastructure, services and budget in the context of the severe financial crisis.

Community organizations have directed most of their activities, especially in 2014 and 2015, to the provision of various services to refugees and displaced persons in and outside of societies. There are a number of centers including:

1. In Duhok (Social Center "Eema") Organization for Development
2. In the Khanqi Complex (Social Center of Roshan)
3. In Sheikhan (AFLF Social Center) of the Yezidi community

These exist as well as centers for the health and psychological care of children.

This situation took place rapidly, which constitutes only a small part of the special skills

(1)This center was opened in October 2014 by a decision of the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq.

that have entered the programs of official and non-official institutions in the Kurdistan Region.

Some of the highlights of this paper are:

- Conflict and instability affect women at the core, lead to a decline in their rights and position in public life and lead to the disruption of laws on their rights.
- The idea of extremism, terrorism and conflicts, especially military ones, makes women the first target, where they become a weapon in bloody conflicts to destroy the morale of the opponent.
- In situations of displacement and homelessness, the special needs of women are neglected.
- The social fabric is at risk of disintegration.

All of this leaves negative future effects for the long term.

On the other hand, women can play a pivotal role in such situations in the areas of protection, prevention and participation in decision-making. It also highlights the importance of the participatory work of the official institutions concerned, each according to its specialty, and civil society organizations in the face of these situations.

The magnitude of future tasks and the seriousness of the challenges, especially for

women and children, require a serious regional and international response.

Here, we refer to a number of issues we consider to be fundamental in these situations, as recommendations for future action:

1. Take into account the specific needs of refugee and displaced women and children, which exceed housing, food and clothing.
2. To allocate a special proportion of international support to refugees and displaced persons to the needs of women and children, which begin from the moment of reception and housing.
3. Raising the degree of coordination between governments, local civil society organizations, the United Nations, international organizations and donors in drawing up plans and programs, in implementation and follow up.
4. The need to focus on combating extremism and terrorism as a long-term program especially in societies that suffer from terrorist practices.
5. These programs should focus on empowering women and provide them with equal opportunities.

6. Preventing all practical and verbal practices that harm women and interfere with their privacy (clothing, work, transportation, technology, etc.).

References:

(1)

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